



## Wolf Blitzer reports from Amman

# Jordan determined on convening int'l parley

AMMAN. — Top Jordanian officials believe they can still cooperate in the Arab-Israeli peace process with PLO chairman Yasser Arafat, despite latest developments at the Palestinian National Council meetings in Algiers.

Jordan is therefore planning to adopt a low-key reaction to the PLO's abrogation of the joint Jordanian-PLO strategy, accepted in 1985 in the Jordanian capital.

Senior officials in the government and royal palace said they were still determined to try to convene an international conference during the next six to eight months. They said that America's preoccupation with the presidential elections next year would effectively establish this deadline.

Despite the decisions taken this week by the PNC, Jordan believes that the prospects for convening an international parley are better than they have ever been before. "Let's

not have another missed opportunity," one official said.

The Jordanian officials conceded that they may have erred in February 1986 when King Hussein dramatically suspended his efforts to coordinate Jordan's strategy with Arafat's, publicly blaming the PLO leader for the impasse. That Jordanian decision may have pushed Arafat towards the more hard-line PLO factions.

But the Jordanians insisted that they might yet be able to salvage a common strategy with Arafat by at least retaining the underlying "principles" of the Amman accord.

The officials, in a series of extensive interviews during my six-day visit to Amman, repeatedly welcomed Foreign Minister Shimon Peres's readiness to participate in an international conference.

The officials, who asked not to be identified by name in *The Jerusalem Post*, said they received an especially

favourable report on Peres's attitude as conveyed during his recent talks in Madrid.

In fact, the Jordanians said that Peres was even more forthcoming and flexible on this issue than Secretary of State George Shultz and other U.S. officials.

"This is very strange for us," a Jordanian official said.

The Jordanians acknowledged the split within the national unity government in Jerusalem over this issue. But they maintained that the differences between Peres and Prime

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## Two voices from Israel

By BENNY MORRIS

Post-Diplomatic Correspondent  
Jerusalem yesterday reacted with two voices to the Palestine National Council's rejection of the PLO-Jordanian agreement of 1985, with aides of Prime Minister Shamir stressing that it was a further nail in the coffin of plans for an international peace conference and aides of Foreign Minister Peres saying that it provided an opportunity for the "moderate" Arab states to at last cast off the PLO albatross.

Senior sources in the Prime Minister's Office said that the past week's radicalization of the PLO, as expressed in the abrogation of its 1985 Amman agreement on political coordination with Jordan, left Peres hard pressed to produce a viable, convincing Palestinian contingent for the international conference. They said that the Soviets, the Arab states and the Europeans all insist on a conference that is not a mere fig-leaf for direct Israeli-Arab talks, and that the PLO renunciation of its Jordanian agreement represents an insistence on participating as a full-fledged partner in any conference — which is unacceptable to the broad spectrum of Israeli public opinion, including most of Peres's own Labour Party.

Meanwhile, however, said the

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## After attacks in the North

# Rabin warns: Israel to counter terror actions

## 'Back to bomb shelters'

By DAVID RUDGE

Jerusalem Post Reporter  
GALILEE PANHANDLE. — "The terrorists have turned the clock back five years. The situation is back to what it was before the Lebanon War," said Elias Ben-Shukrun, commenting on the recent wave of Katyusha attacks in the region.

"It may even be worse now than before because we can't expect the army to become embroiled in Lebanon again," he said.

"We want to be able to live in peace and security, but not at the expense of the lives of our soldiers. They paid a heavy price in Lebanon and nobody would want to see that again."

Ben-Shukrun, who runs a small cafe in one of the northern settlements of the region, said the "bomb-shelter" mentality was returning.

"Our children have suffered over the years from the constant fear of rocket attacks and the sudden rush into shelters or security rooms," he said.

"My own daughter was still wetting her bed occasionally at the age of 12 until she received psychological help."

"We had a brief respite but now, it seems, the story is beginning all over again and a new generation is going

to grow up with the same fears, and, maybe, the same problems," he warned.

"I honestly don't know what the solution is, except maybe a new Bar-Lev line north of the Litani River. At least the government should give more aid to the residents to compensate them and strengthen their resolve to stay in the area," he added.

Several more Katyushas fell in the region on Monday night. One exploded near a kindergarten and another between some buildings. Nobody was injured, although the shrapnel hit the walls of some apartments.

One man was outside feeding his sheep when one of the rockets fell just a few metres away from him. He was shaken but unhurt.

Esther Benita, aged 72, was inside her home preparing for the traditional Mimouna celebrations when the Katyusha exploded.

The rest of the family were out at the time. "I was getting everything ready for the festival so that the family would have a hearty welcome when they walked in," said Benita, an immigrant from Morocco.

"Instead everybody came back upset and frightened and we all had

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## Blames PLO for acts

By DAVID RUDGE

Jerusalem Post Reporter  
KIRYAT SHMONA. — Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin indicated yesterday that the IDF would set up operations to stop the upsurge of terrorist activity against Israel and the security zone in South Lebanon.

Rabin spoke during a visit to this northern township in the wake of recent Katyusha rocket attacks in the Galilee panhandle and Sunday's terrorist infiltration near Kibbutz Manara. Three terrorists and two IDF soldiers were killed in the incident.

The minister maintained that the recent shelling, as well as the infiltration, were the work of Palestinian terrorists, led by Yasser Arafat's mainstream Fatah organization.

The attacks had been timed to coincide with the Palestinian National Council meeting in Algiers, said Rabin.

"We have witnessed in the past week to 10 days an attempt by the PLO terrorist organization to increase their activities against targets in Israel," he said.

"Instructions were issued by Arafat and other terrorist groups to carry out atrocities against innocent

civilians by infiltrating from Lebanon and firing Katyusha rockets. In addition, the population in Judea, Samaria and Gaza Strip was instructed to attack Jewish targets in the territories and in Israel.

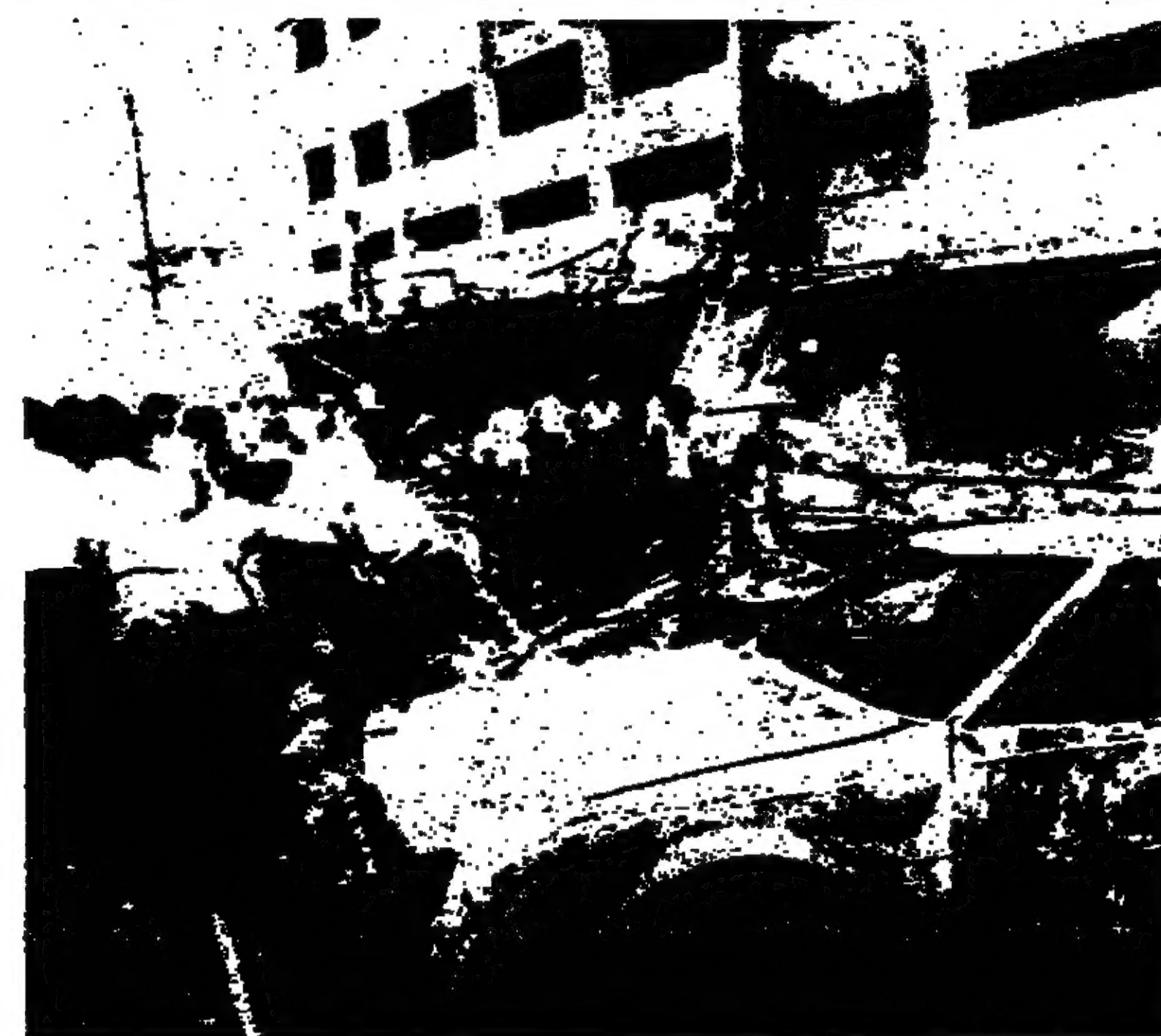
"We are determined to foil this, even if it will mean increased activities by the IDF."

"We cannot tolerate a situation of three attacks in a week. It is our responsibility to provide maximum security for the population along the Lebanese/Israeli border, Kiryat Shmona, moshavim and kibbutzim and other settlements in the area," Rabin declared.

The minister conveyed to Kiryat Shmona Mayor Prosper Azran and residents of the North yesterday's unanimous cabinet decision that the government would do all in its power to halt the recent wave of terrorist activity.

Rabin was accompanied by the new Chief of General Staff, Dan Shomron, OC Northern Command Aluf Yossi Peled, and senior IDF officers.

Rabin noted that the attacks inside the security zone were the work of Shi'ite extremists from the fanatical Hizbullah (Party of God) and Amal organizations.



Rescue workers pull out bodies from the wreckage of the bomb explosion at a bus station in Colombo yesterday. (Reuters telephoto)

# Car bomb kills 150 in Colombo

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP). — A powerful car bomb exploded yesterday at the height of rush hour near the capital's main bus terminal, killing as many as 150 people and wounding 200 others, a government official said.

The Health Ministry official said that victims were being treated at hospitals around the city and that the death toll could rise.

Among the victims were passengers trapped in six buses parked near the terminal during rush hour, police and witnesses said. Many burned to death or died of smoke inhalation as the buses were engulfed in flames.

The government issued a state-

ment blaming the bombing on two Tamil separatist groups, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam and the Eelam Revolutionary Organization of Students.

The groups are among five Tamil organizations that have fought a four-year-old guerrilla war for independence in the north and east regions of the island nation.

Shortly after the blast, angry mobs of Sinhalese civilians stoned Tamil-owned shops about a kilometre from the explosion site, but police intervened and dispersed the crowd.

The bombing was the third terrorist attack in the past four days in the predominantly Sinhalese island.

## Nafsu case

# Shin Bet chief wants legal probe

By MENACHEM SHALEV

Jerusalem Post Reporter  
Former IDF officer Izat Nafsu's appeal to the Supreme Court continued to trouble the security establishment yesterday. The IDF and the Shin Bet disagreed sharply on how to respond to the appeal, and sources close to the Shin Bet said the Security Service's chief was demanding a judicial commission of inquiry into its procedures.

Senior Justice Ministry officials held a tense and stormy meeting last night at the attorney-general's office with Shin Bet executives and military legal authorities. The meeting ended without agreement on how the state should respond to Nafsu's appeal, and chief IDF attorney Tar-Aluf Amnon Shtrusnov for the first time expressed reservations about the strength of the state's case.

Well-placed sources said that the revelations at the meeting of the scope of Shin Bet improprieties in the Nafsu case surprised participants, and sharp disagreements broke out about conceding certain points raised in Nafsu's appeal.

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## New military revolt in Argentina

BUENOS AIRES (Reuters). — A new military revolt erupted yesterday in the northern city of Salta, less than 48 hours after President Raul Alfonsin had put down a similar uprising, the semi-official news agency Telam reported.

The agency said the uprising by the 5th Engineering Regiment appeared to be a protest against Alfonsin's

choice of a new army chief. The uprising was led by Major Jorge Duran, it added.

Earlier yesterday, the president held a televised meeting with the Joint Chiefs of Staff to deny reports he had negotiated with the leaders of the four-day insurrection which ended on Sunday, or discussed with them the replacement of the army chief of staff.

# Trawniki signatures 'authentic'

By ERNIE MEYER

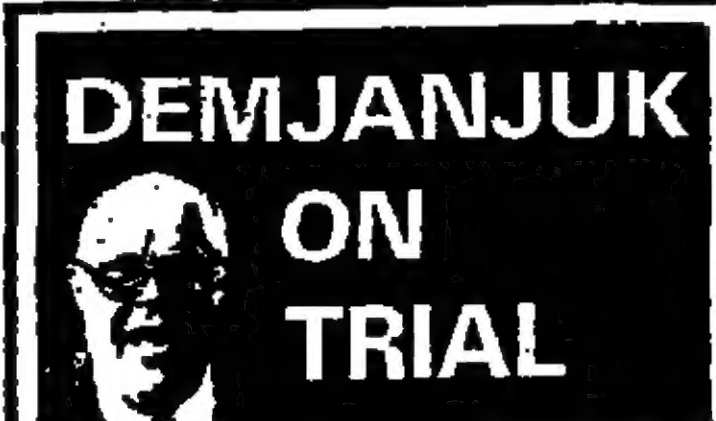
Jerusalem Post Reporter  
In a relatively dull but highly important session of the Demjanjuk trial yesterday a documents expert said he was certain of the authenticity of the signatures of two SS men on the crucial Trawniki identification card.

Regarding the signature of Demjanjuk himself, however, he was less certain.

"There is no indication of forgery here, though I can't be completely certain," Chief Superintendent Amnon Bezalet testified for the prosecution. "I consider the document as a whole authentic," he said.

When the questioning of Bezalet is completed this morning, prosecutor Michael Shaked will ask the court to accept the ID card in evidence.

Concerning the photo of Demjanjuk on the document, Bezalet said that although it had fallen off and been reattached, it was the original photograph.



Bezalet said that he has been in charge of the criminal identification department at police headquarters since 1976 and that he has been recognized as an expert witness in his field since 1980. "We examine about 3,000 signatures a year, dealing with cheques, passports, drivers' licences and immigrants' documents from all over the world," he said. The laboratory has the most modern equipment, including high-powered microscopes and lasers, he added.

Bezalet's report was neatly compiled in a large album, copies of which were given to each of the judges and to the defence team. The

album contained many pages of enlargements of the three signatures on the Trawniki ID card.

At one stage, as Shaked was asking the witness to explain a certain item in the album, defence counsel Mark O'Connor objected to what he described as a "leading" question. Court president Dov Levin overruled him, however. It seems that when an expert — as opposed to an ordinary witness — is on the stand, the concept of "leading" almost never applies.

The first part of the morning was taken up with evidence concerning the authenticity of the signature of camp commander (Karl) Streibel, which appears at the bottom of the ID card. Bezalet had compared it to about 15 other specimens of the SS officer's signature supplied to him at archives in Berlin and Wiesbaden. "The signature is relatively uncomplicated," he said, as he pointed out details on a blow-up mounted on

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GENEVA	13	10	16	Clear
HELSINKI	13	10	16	Clear
HONG KONG	22	18	26	Clear
JORDANESBURG	13	10	16	Clear
LONDON	13	10	16	Clear
MADRID	13	10	16	Clear
MONTREAL	13	10	16	Clear
NEW YORK	13	10	16	Clear
OSLO	13	10	16	Clear
PARIS	13	10	16	Clear
RUHRGARDEN	13	10	16	Clear
SAO PAULO	13	10	16	Clear
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### THE WEATHER

Forecast: Partly cloudy to cloudy, local showers in the north and centre of the country.

	Yesterday's	Yesterday's	Today's
	Humidity	Min-Max	Max
Jerusalem	53	8-14	12
Golan	54	8-14	12
Nahariya	—	—	—
Safad	—	—	—
Haifa Port	66	11-19	17
Tiberias	48	10-22	21
Nazareth	—	—	—
Afula	63	7-18	16
Samaria	53	12-20	14
Tel Aviv	54	12-20	19
B-G Airport	33	11-25	23
Jericho	33	11-25	23
Gaza	39	12-19	18
Beersheba	31	8-20	19
Eilat	20	16-26	24

### ARRIVALS

Eugene Thomas, head of the American Bar Association, to participate in the 25th anniversary celebrations of the Israel Bar.

## W. Bank quiet pending PNC results

By JOEL GREENBERG  
Jerusalem Post Reporter

Unrest in the West Bank tapered off sharply yesterday, though continuing disturbances were reported in the Gaza Strip. Security sources have attributed the relative quiet in the West Bank to a "wait and see" attitude regarding the outcome of the current session of the Palestine National Council in Algiers.

Palestinians in the West Bank yesterday expressed satisfaction with the cancellation of the Jordan-PLO agreement and with moves to unify the PLO. The *Al Fajr* newspaper said the unification of the PLO factions would facilitate coordinated action to realize the PLO's political programme.

A-Shaab said the unity moves were a "victory of the popular will." *Al-Nahar* said the goals outlined at the PNC session by Arafat, including an independent Palestinian state and an international peace conference, were supported by most Palestinians. But the PNC still had to show how it intended to achieve these aims, the paper said.

In the Gaza Strip, five petrol bombs were hurled Monday night at IDF patrols in Khan Yunis, but there were no casualties. Another petrol bomb was thrown yesterday morning at the post office in downtown Gaza, causing light damage.

At the Bureij refugee camp, a youth was wounded in the hand when troops opened fire after being surrounded by demonstrators, a military spokesman said. In the West Bank village of Dura, dozens of pupils clashed yesterday with security forces after they burned tires and barricaded a road. The pupils threw stones at police, who shot in the air. IDF troops rushed to the scene and dispersed the protesters. The troops ordered the pupils to remove the barricades.

## Gabbai appointment gets cabinet okay

Jerusalem Post Reporter

The cabinet yesterday approved the appointment of Meir Gabbai as civil service commissioner. Gabbai, 54, who was director-general of the Justice Ministry for 11 years, served for two weeks this month as head of the Securities Authority, before being asked to take over the more onerous and prestigious post of civil service commissioner. Gabbai takes over the commission on May 1.

Born in Jerusalem, he is a graduate of the Hebrew University and of Columbia University. Between 1962 and 1969 he worked for the UN in New York, dealing with capital investments and patents in developing countries.

### Sharett on NIS 20 bill

A NIS 20 bill is to be issued by the Bank of Israel in 1988. The bill will carry the likeness of Moshe Sharett, Israel's second prime minister, who died in 1965.

The bill was approved yesterday by the Bank of Israel's advisory council.

## HOME AND FOREIGN NEWS

# CGS maintains low profile during tour of north

By JOSHUA BRILLIANT  
Post Defence Reporter

TEL AVIV. — Rav Aluf Dan Shomron spent his first working day as the IDF's new Chief of the General Staff visiting units in Southern Lebanon and Israeli residents whose homes were hit by Katyushas.

In Kiryat Shmona, citizens came forward to wish him well, give him advice, and offer Moroccan bread covered with honey. But he also devoted time to dodging reporters' questions.

Shomron is now still trying to maintain a quiet profile and this attitude had filtered down to his aides. One of them yesterday advised *The Jerusalem Post* not to write about his first days as the 13th CGS. "He has a right to privacy. Get to the real subjects," the aide said.

Yesterday's schedule, though timely in view of the attacks in the north, had been planned long ago, in line with the customary visits every CGS posts immediately after winning the top post. Today Shomron is to visit the Central Command; he will go south tomorrow and later is scheduled to visit the Air Force and the Navy.

He helicoptered to the north along with the OC Northern Command, Aluf Yossi Peled. Their Bell helicopter landed at a small pad in the Upper Galilee and a motorcycle took him to the parade grounds.

Shomron was received by an honour guard comprising Golani infantrymen, artillery and tank corps crews and women soldiers. Another formation displayed the flags of the IDF and the units in the command. Shomron reviewed the troops and was introduced to the command's staff.

He was presented with a rug with the command's insignia, a deer's horn, woven into it.

With the pleasantries over, Shomron and the staff sat down in the "blong conference room to discuss business over maps and charts.

Shomron then continued to a position held by the Golani infantry brigade near the border and then crossed into southern Lebanon.

He was at the Kiryat Shmona municipality by 3 p.m. along with Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Peled to meet mayor Prosper Azran who also heads the committee of border settlements. They later continued to visit an area hit by Katyushas on Monday evening.

Shomron kept quiet most of the time, deferring to Rabin. However residents approached him, wished him long life and asked him to hit back at the terrorists.

Alice Buskila, whose apartment was damaged in Monday's Katyusha raid came out with *mufleta*, Moroccan bread which she served with honey. It was left over from the Mimouna reception interrupted when the shells fell.

Though Shomron declined to talk to reporters, Azran quoted him as saying in a conversation that he developed a different picture of Kiryat Shmona that the one he had had earlier. "I don't believe people will now escape Kiryat Shmona," as they had done several years ago, he reportedly said. "It's a different Kiryat Shmona."

Towards evening the CGS was at his bureau, at the GHQ building in the Kirya in Tel Aviv, meeting with his acting deputy, CGS Aluf Amram Mitsnah.

## Peretz steps up battle against registering non-Orthodox converts

By HAIM SHAPIRO  
Jerusalem Post Reporter

Former interior minister Yitzhak Peretz, who found himself unable to wage a full-fledged legal battle against registering non-Orthodox converts as Jews, while he was in office, is doing so now that he has resigned.

The High Court of Justice yesterday filed a petition by Peretz and his Shas Party, opposing such registration, to that of the case of two non-Orthodox converts who have petitioned the court to be registered as Jews.

Last year, when Reform convert Shoshana Miller asked the court to order that she be registered as a Jew, the State Attorney's office refused to defend the Interior Ministry's refusal to register non-Orthodox converts. Peretz then proposed adding the word "convert" to the entry "Jew" for all converts, Orthodox and non-Orthodox. But the High Court rejected this move.

In the petition Peretz has now filed with the court he argues that Reform converts are not "Jews" under the Law of Return. Joining him in the petition are his fellow Shas MK, Yosef Ben-Shlomo, and Rabbi Simcha Miron, formerly the director of the rabbinical courts and now the legal adviser of Shas. Representing them is attorney Zvi Terio.

The court made Peretz a co-respondent to the converts' petition, but it has not yet made clear to what degree it will allow him to present his arguments before the bench. This will only emerge during the court's next hearing, on the case in a fortnight.

Yesterday the court also granted the director of the Interior Ministry's Population Registry additional time to study the conversion certificate of petitioners Julia and Marilo Varela. Both were converted by a graduate of a Conservative seminary in an unaffiliated liberal congregation in Brazil.

The conversion certificate is in question because of an apparent discrepancy between the Hebrew and Gregorian dates listed on it. In a separate case, a couple who identify themselves as Jews who believe in Jesus petitioned the High Court yesterday to be registered as Jews.

The two came to this country from Zimbabwe at the beginning of the year. They say in their petition that the Interior Ministry has refused to register them as Jews, even though their parents are Jewish. They argue that they still see themselves as Jews, while believing that Jesus was the Messiah.

The couple is being represented by attorney Yosef Ben-Menasseh, who is also representing the Varelas.

## Government at standstill over university tuition fees

Jerusalem Post Reporter

The government is still chasing its own tail in the controversy over university tuition fees.

After Education Minister Yitzhak Navon reported to the cabinet yesterday that a five-man panel set up to return a recommendation about the level of fees came out with five separate proposals, Prime Minister Shamir said that the first step must be to decide on the mechanism whereby the decision should be taken.

The decision on the actual level of fees would be the second step, Shamir said.

Finance Minister Moshe Nissim said he could not agree that the cabinet debate the various proposals already submitted and take the actual decision.

Shamir announced that the mechanism whereby the fees would be finally set would be worked out by a four-man committee comprising

himself, Vice Premier Peres, Navon and Nissim or his representative (who will be Science and Development Minister Gideon Patt while Nissim is in Latin America during the next fortnight).

The abortive five-man panel was composed of Navon, Patt, a senior Treasury official, a representative of the Committee of University Heads, and a representative of the National Students' Union.

Student leaders yesterday chained themselves in front of the Prime Minister's Office to protest against planned tuition hikes.

They agreed to leave the site at the conclusion of yesterday's cabinet meeting when several ministers, including Navon, agreed to talk to them.

But they promised that demonstrations would continue until an "acceptable" decision was reached on fees.

## Begin leaves hospital today

Post Science & Health Reporter

Former premier Menachem Begin is scheduled to leave Jerusalem's Sha'are Zedek Hospital today following a week of tests for general exhaustion. Begin, 73, was hospitalized in the urology department and was visited only by relatives.

The family refused to let the hospital disclose details of his ailment, beyond saying that he was able to leave his bed for the first time yesterday.

## Four inmates missing after holiday furlough

Four of the 808 prisoners who received Pessah furloughs have failed to return to prison. The four were serving terms of four to six years for burglary and robbery. (Itim)

JARUZELSKI. — Polish leader Wojciech Jaruzelski arrived in Moscow yesterday for "a brief friendly visit" and met with Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev in the Kremlin, Tass reported, but gave no further details.

## Planning committee votes 12-2 in favour after religious filibuster ends Jerusalem a step nearer soccer stadium

By JUDY SIEGEL  
Jerusalem Post Reporter

The capital yesterday moved a giant step closer to getting its own soccer stadium, as the District Planning Committee approved a site in southern Jerusalem for a 10,000-seat complex after hearing more than 1,200 objections from ultra-Orthodox Jerusalemites.

The nearly 18-month-long filibuster by religious residents, most of them residents of the Bayit Vegan quarter, was brought to an end by a deadline imposed by government regulation. Parts of Bayit Vegan overlook Manabat, the proposed site of the stadium, and residents protested that the stadium would disrupt their Sabbath.

But municipal officials countered that residents would have to stand on the roof of the easternmost apartment building in Bayit Vegan if they wanted to see the sports centre, which is to be located two kilometres away as the crow flies.

Mayor Teddy Kollek, who has been fighting to bring a stadium to Jerusalem since 1979 against opposition from ultra-Orthodox residents, yesterday welcomed the committee's decision. But he noted that he would not solicit potential donors for the estimated \$20 million stadium until the decision was signed, sealed and delivered.

According to the law, it must be signed by the interior minister before construction can begin. Since Yitzhak Peretz of Shas left the government in January, Likud MK Ronni Milo has been running the ministry. City Hall officials were uncertain yesterday whether Milo would have to sign the bill or whether it would need the signature of the premier who is the acting interior minister.

Milo is reportedly prepared to sign the decision if some revisions are made.

The municipality hopes the remaining barriers to the stadium — the

signature and the financing — will be quickly overcome to allow the sports complex to be built in two years.

The district committee voted 12 to 2 in favour of the Manabat stadium, which is planned as part of a huge shopping complex in southeastern Jerusalem. Few ultra-Orthodox Jews live in the area.

In 1979, after considerable sums had been invested by the municipality in infrastructure work for a stadium in northern Jerusalem, then-premier Menachem Begin asked Kollek to stop work for "two months" on the site to "keep peace in Jerusalem." The government then set up the Kubersky Committee to re-study the problem, which recommended that a different location be found for the stadium.

The government pledged to finance half of the then-estimated cost of \$7 million. Today, the price is expected to be nearly three times that.

The ultra-Orthodox were pleased

by the shelving of the first proposal, but according to municipal officials they were determined to prevent the building of a stadium anywhere in the holy city, as they regard sports amphitheatres as a "symbol of Hellenic culture." Many demonstrations, some of them violent, preceded Begin's appeal to Kollek.

Ironically, the building of the new stadium would actually reduce Sabbath desecration in the city caused by soccer games, insists the municipality. Hapoel Jerusalem uses the YMCA ground off King David Street in the centre of town, and games cause big traffic jams and noise that disturb residents, some of them religious. Hapoel's use of their soccer pitch in Katamon until a few years ago annoyed religious neighbours.

Kollek has repeatedly expressed his disappointment with Jerusalem soccer fans who, unlike the ultra-Orthodox, organized no demonstrations for a stadium.

## Cabinet okays aid for Druse, Circassians

Jerusalem Post Reporter

The cabinet yesterday took a series of decisions which will enable the Druse and Circassian villages to reach the same level of development within five years as their neighbouring development townships have today.

The cabinet did not decide, however, how much money would be spent to put the Druse and Circassian villages on an equal footing; nor did it decide just where the money would come from.

Finance Minister Moshe Nissim said that while he approved the plan, he had hardly any money left in the state budget reserve, and therefore it would be up to each ministry to find the necessary money from within its existing departmental budget.

Each ministry would be responsible for the type of project within its normal competence, the cabinet said.

Not a single minister of the many who spoke before the vote volunteered an idea as to where he would find the requisite funds.

The decisions were passed by a clear majority with no opposition, but not all the ministers voted.

Cabinet Secretary Elyakim Rubinstein, who was responsible for piloting the proposals through several preliminary stages before putting them to the cabinet, told the news media he had no doubt that the ministers would find the money.

Minister-without-Portfolio Moshe Arens, who had initially pushed the programme through the cabinet as part of his responsibilities, said last night: "The cabinet has taken a historic decision and repaid a debt of honour, which this country has been owing the Druse and Circassian communities for the past 40 years but never yet discharged."

Meanwhile, a torn and burned Israeli flag was found yesterday at the entrance to Julis, a Druse village in the Western Galilee. The road sign at the entrance to the village was vandalized.

## 'Soviet visit to Israel still on'

MOSCOW (Reuters). — A senior Kremlin spokesman said yesterday that a planned visit to Israel by a Soviet consular delegation was still on, despite reports from the Middle East that it had been cancelled.

Gennady Gerasimov, spokesman of the Soviet Foreign Ministry, told a news conference the group "has not yet bought its plane tickets but the visit has not been cancelled."

Reports from Kuwait over the weekend quoted Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Vladimir Petrovsky as saying the visit had been cancelled because Israel had used it for propaganda.

Post Diplomatic Correspondent adds:

Sources in Jerusalem said yesterday that they were "not surprised" by the Gerasimov statement or by the contradiction between it and Petrovsky's comments in Kuwait.

The sources said that it was to be expected that the Soviets would speak with one voice in the Arab world and with another in Moscow.



A soldier (left) weeps yesterday at the funeral of Asaf Alon. Alon's parents, Ben-Zion and Nomi, at the graveside at Kiryat Shaul cemetery. (Reuters, Andre Bratmann)



## Hundreds pay last respects to comrade

TEL AVIV (Itim). — Samal Rishon Asaf Alon, 20, who was killed in Sunday morning's clash with terrorists in Galilee, was buried yesterday at the Kiryat Shaul cemetery here.

Alon, a member of the Golani Brigade who was to have been discharged from the IDF in five months, is survived by his parents, Ben-Zion and Nomi, and his 15-year-old sister Betty.

Hundreds of his comrades joined his commanders at the graveside to pay their last respects. Sgan Aluf Eilan said that Alon, who was killed in hand-to-hand combat, emptied the magazines of three sub-machine guns before running out of ammunition. He was described by his company commanders as "the model of a commander."

## Peres promises to visit Alfei Menashe

By MENACHEM SHALEV  
Post Political Reporter

Vice Premier Shimon Peres said yesterday that he would soon visit the West Bank town of Alfei Menashe. The promise prompted Labour Party members in the town to announce a "cease fire" in their attacks on their leaders' statements on the settlement in Samaria.

Alfei Menashe Labourites along with party members in the West Bank settlements of Ariel and Ma'aleh Ephraim, have repeatedly lashed out at Peres and Defence Minister Rabin since the April 11 petrol bomb attack in which Alfei Menashe resident Ofra Moses died and members of her family were wounded. West Bank Labourites

have attacked Peres's characterization of Samaria's settlements as "bedroom communities" and his insistence that the Negev and the Galilee communities should be given priority over West Bank towns.

In statements to the media, the Alfei Menashe Labourites have referred to themselves as members of a full-fledged Labour party "branch" in the town. But Labour Party secretary-general Uzi Baram said yesterday that there was no recognized Labour branch in Alfei Menashe.

Baram said that the town's residents knew, when they joined the party, "that there was a difference between Labour and Likud." Baram also expressed support for Rabin's

statement that anyone who moves to Alfei Menashe knows that he is taking a risk, just like residents of settlements near the Lebanon border. The Rabin statement has angered the Samaria settlers.

The Labour leaders' statements have also caused a rift in the party branch in the West Bank town of Ya'aleh Adumim. Branch chairman Yaron Ran, and aide to Energy Minister Moshe Shahal, expressed support on Monday for Peres and Rabin. But branch secretary Rafi Goren announced yesterday that Ran's statements do not reflect the views of branch members, who wholeheartedly support the position of Labourites in the other West Bank settlements.

## Man gets life in prison for killing battered wife

TEL AVIV (Itim). — David Dok, 52, who last year gunned down his wife at the entrance to her Ramat Gan apartment, was sentenced yesterday to life in prison by the district court here.

Dok obtained a gun from the Civilian Intelligence private security agency that hired him on August 10, 1986, and immediately went to his wife's apartment where he shot her three times.

Dok had physically abused his wife, Gracia, for many years. On one occasion she took shelter in Herzliya's home for battered women. Six months before her murder she gave in to family pressure and returned to her husband and three children. But shortly afterwards she again left home and rented an apartment in Ramat Gan.

On the day of the murder, Dok wrote his three children: "Her [Gra-

cia's] behaviour is cruel and irresponsible. Therefore I have decided that a mother like this is not a mother and it is forbidden for her to live. I have also decided to put an end to my life because I am sick of seeing your suffering. After both of us are no longer alive, the agencies will put you with a foster family that will give you warmth and love. Forgive me my children, from a father who loves you."

The court rejected the defence plea of temporary insanity. The letter, said the judges, indicated that Dok had carefully thought out his actions.

## Shamir thanks Shultz for attending seder

Prime Minister Shamir has sent a letter to U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz, in appreciation of his Seder in Moscow with the leading refuseniks and other Soviet Jews. Shamir described it as a "moving and heart-warming message" to all engaged in Soviet Jewry's freedom struggle.

"We especially appreciate the fact that you are the first U.S. Secretary of State ever to have performed such a noble deed," Shamir wrote. "We know that there is still a long way to go until the Soviet Union will permit all our brethren to leave. But the road ahead will be shorter because of what you did this week, and we shall persevere together until we succeed."

**WEIZMANN INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE**

The Staff of the Mathematics Faculty and the Scientific Workers Committee express their condolences to Prof. Anthony Joseph on the death of his

**MOTHER** מרת

**SALA BONDER**

has passed away after a long illness and much suffering

Husband — William  
Nephew and wife — Lalek and Zeele.  
Beer Shova Family  
Holland — Family

We mourn the untimely death of

**SHMULIK CHIZIK**

Assia Jacobson (Chizik)  
Bernard Jacobson, Los Angeles  
The Ofer family, Ramat Hasharon  
Javitch families, Montreal and New York

Extends sincerest condolences to the family of the late

**Prof. MORTON W. BLOOMFIELD** מרת

Professor Emeritus, Howard University.  
A devoted friend and holder of a Ph.D. Honoris Causa from Bar-Ilan University.



## 'Literary Gazette' wants more details Soviet paper prints inmate's letter criticizing labour camp

MOSCOW (AP). — A newspaper has published a letter from a former prisoner criticizing Soviet labour camps and asking that more information be released about them.

Western diplomats said it may be the first letter published in official mass media criticizing the camps. There is almost no official information available on the camps, which are estimated to hold at least one million prisoners.

The letter signed by former convict V. Stavrovsky of Smolensk, said the camps turn people into hardened criminals.

"It is high time to say what is going on in the corrective labour camps," the weekly *Literary Gazette* said in a commentary accompanying the letter published in its current edition.

Publication of the letter appears to be part of a review of the criminal justice system. Soviet media have published examples of miscarriages of justice over the past year, and some high-ranking officials have called for better protection of citizens against false arrest and imprisonment.

"It's possible something like this appeared before in legal publications, but that something with a critical tone of the camps should show up in the *Literary Gazette* is astonishing," said one western diplomat.

*Literary Gazette* is one of the country's largest newspapers, with a circulation of three to four million. The newspaper expected some readers to be upset about publication of a convict's letter.

However the newspaper said "the rules of 'glasnost' tolerate no exceptions." It was referring to Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev's programme of publicizing some social problems.

Stavrovsky's letter said little about camp conditions, which have been described in detail by former political prisoners recently released in a review of dissident cases. But he wrote about the inability of a common criminal to reform himself in the camps.

"The development of vicious inclinations in the individual flourishes" in the camps, he said.

"They say this is a formal re-education, but in reality it is a continuation of the process in which one constantly feels suspicion and mistrust, either in himself or others. The so-called political and education work is just wretched," Stavrovsky wrote.

"Having served his term, the person is simply incapable of keeping to the norms of life common in society," Stavrovsky wrote.

Stavrovsky did not say where he was imprisoned or on what charges he was convicted. He said he had "several convictions" and that he thinks the number of repeat offenders is many times larger than the number of people serving their first term.

"A letter like mine can't be sent from the camps... I learned from my own experience," Stavrovsky continued. "The rules say you must be sent to a punishment cell for illegal mailing of letters containing slanderous statements about the administration."

In the accompanying commentary signed by Yuri Shchekochikhin, the *Literary Gazette* said, "It is time to make public the statistics of the corrective labour camp results."

"Is the system effective? Is it turning people who made mistakes once into hardened criminals? There are many questions around this closed topic. It is necessary to investigate them," the newspaper said.

No statistics are published in the state-run press on the number of prisoners in the Soviet Union or on the number and capacity of prisons and labour camps. Western estimates say there are over 1,000 labour camps in the country holding between one and two million Soviet criminals and political prisoners.

## Walker spy ring gave keys to million secrets

## Weinberger cites huge Soviet gains

WASHINGTON (Reuters). — The Soviet Union deciphered more than a million sensitive U.S. messages in their greatest spy coup ever as a result of information from navy sailor John Walker, Defence Secretary Caspar Weinberger said this week.

Weinberger, in the most detailed public assessment yet of damages from the Walker family spy ring, said the former navy communications expert had passed data to the Soviets for nearly two decades in "one of the greatest espionage losses in history."

He said the operation had given the KGB security police the "keys" to U.S. message encryption systems.

"We know now that the KGB considered the Walker operation to be the most important operation in their history. The information stolen by Walker enabled the KGB to de-

cipher more than one million messages," he said.

This revealed to the Soviet Union "our future plans, ship locations and transit routes, military operations, intelligence activities and the information on which we based our intelligence judgments," Weinberger told a luncheon of the Navy League, a military-industrial group.

The Soviet Union had gained access to weapons data, naval tactics, terrorist threats, readiness, tactics and surface, submarine and airborne training, he said.

"Most dangerously, they may easily have learned how we might plan to employ the U.S. Navy worldwide in the event of crisis and conflict," he said.

Weinberger also lashed out at the "glasnost" or openness policy that has become the hallmark of Soviet

leader Mikhail Gorbachev, suggesting it was a sham.

The thrust of current Soviet strategy, he said, is to "lessen tensions with the West and thereby soften western resistance to sharing with them the modern technologies which they so desperately need for economic modernization."

Walker, a retired Navy communications specialist, pleaded guilty last year to supplying naval secrets to Soviet agents for 18 years.

He recruited his brother, son and a navy friend into the operation, which Weinberger said provided Moscow with "sufficient data to permit them to gauge the true capabilities and vulnerabilities of the U.S. Navy."

Each of the members of the ring has either been convicted or pleaded guilty to spy charges. Walker was sentenced to two life terms in prison.

## Homosexuality in the Soviet Union

## Is it time to come into the open?

By ANDREW WILSON  
MOSCOW. — One of the last taboos on the reporting in the Soviet press of social and sexual phenomena was broken last week by a full-page treatment of the question of homosexuality in the youth newspaper *Moskovskii Komsomol*.

It was ostensibly occasioned by the editor's receipt of a letter from a 17-year-old homosexual schoolboy appealing for help after being beaten up by others at his school. "We are not used to reading the world 'homosexual' in our press," wrote "A.E." "But this is just what I am. This is the bitter truth. My situation is terrible."

A long article on the same page described the case of another homosexual, 20-year-old Igor K., who had been forced to leave home, his studies and later his job because of persecution.

The authorities' decision to open the matter to public discussion almost certainly arises from a call in some medical quarters for the legalization of homosexuality. Doctors seeking to stop the spread of AIDS say they cannot hope to trace car-

riers of the virus unless homosexuals are persuaded to come out into the open.

In Moscow, homosexuality carries a penalty of imprisonment under Article 121 of the Russian Federation's Criminal Code. The law applies to both men and women, but punishment is envisaged only for men.

The coverage in *Moskovskii Komsomol* tells as much about the rigidity of Soviet attitudes as it does about the hitherto denied incidence of homosexuality, both male and female, against Soviet citizens.

The newspaper gives considerable space to the views of a prominent sexopathologist, Professor Vyacheslav Maslov, to whom the young man Igor went for help.

The unfortunate Igor, the only child in a nine-parent family, was brought up over-protectively by his mother and grandmother. "They dressed him like a doll and when he grew older his mother took him by the hand to music school to learn to play the harp. He later learned to figure-skate and help his grandmother in the kitchen. In other

words, he was forced to assume the role of a girl."

Maslov's pursuit of the role-reversal theme leads to the further admission that male homosexuality is not the only menace to Soviet society. "In our day, we unfortunately come across the other extreme — a masculine upbringing for girls. Homosexuality among women is no less common than homosexuality among men."

Addressing the question of legislation, Maslov declares: "I think I have no need to explain how dangerous this approach is... freedom to practise homosexuality would almost certainly mean propagating it."

Something should be done, too, about the "appalling" standard of sex education in Soviet schools. But Maslov was not recommending that parents should follow the example of the West where "the sexual revolution has brought about an explosion of perversion." Soviet children must be taught to understand the difference between the sexes "between the weak and the strong."

(London Observer Service)

## Nazi-era war on homosexuals

LONDON (Reuters). — Few victims of the Nazi campaign against homosexuals have been willing to talk publicly about their experiences. But a new book seeks to shed light on this aspect of the Third Reich which has gone largely unexplored by historians.

Its title, *The Pink Triangle: The Nazi war against Homosexuals* — comes from the marking that homosexuals had to wear in the concentration camps. They were one of the smallest categories there.

Author Richard Plant says evidence about the numbers involved is sketchy, but estimates that during 12 years of Nazi rule more than 50,000 men were convicted of homosexuality and between 5,000 and 15,000 perished in the camps. Lesbians were largely spared.

He could not locate many survivors who had worn the pink triangle. They were treated as criminals until

the repeal of paragraph 175 of the West German Penal Code almost a quarter of a century after the fall of Hitler.

His book, published in Britain by Mainstream, describes a vicious campaign Plant says must be seen within the context of Germany's anxieties after its World War I defeat and the racism and xenophobia arising out of rampant inflation and unemployment that gripped the country by the early 1930s.

One month after Hitler became chancellor in 1933, a ban on pornography and homosexual rights groups was imposed.

In 1934, Hitler directed that homosexuals be eliminated from the Nazi Party after the purge of SA paramilitary leader and flamboyant homosexual Ernst Roehm and associates in the so-called "Night of the Long Knives."

By 1935, German laws against

homosexuality dating from the turn-of-the-century were amended to broaden punishment of "criminally indecent activities" between men.

Plant, who fled Frankfurt in 1933 and now teaches at the new School for Social Research in New York, says SS Security police chief Heinrich Himmler became obsessed with homosexuals, labelling them "propagation blanks" and worrying that they sought to corrupt heterosexuals.

The Gestapo sent letters to police departments throughout Germany calling for lists of men known to be homosexually active. A Federal Security Office for combating abortion and homosexuality was established in 1936.

But there were prominent exemptions, particularly for artistic collaborators like Gustaf Grundgens, whose rise within the Reich to head the State Theatre was chronicled in Klaus Mann's novel "Mephisto."

Himmler saw little reason to persecute homosexuals outside Germany itself.

In the camps, homosexuals were given particularly onerous work. A 1979 play *Bent* by Martin Sherman, dramatized the hardships of homosexual men assigned to stone quarries.

One group of homosexuals at the Buchenwald camp were castrated and injected with huge doses of male hormones to see if they would exhibit signs of interest in the opposite sex. No final report of the experiment's results survived the war.

## Linna in Soviet custody

MOSCOW (AP). — Soviet officials yesterday took custody of Karl Linna, who faces execution on charges he supervised the killings of 12,000 prisoners at a Nazi death camp, and sent him to his native Estonia.

The 67-year-old Linna was only the second person accused of Nazi war crimes to be deported from the U.S. to the Soviet Union. He fought an eight-year legal battle to retain his U.S. citizenship and stay in the U.S.

The official Soviet news agency Tass said Linna was put on a plane to Tallin, capital of Soviet Estonia, after he was turned over to Soviet authorities at the airport in Prague, Czechoslovakia, where he arrived yesterday morning after a flight from New York.

He left the U.S. late Monday when the U.S. Supreme Court rejected an appeal from his daughter Ann Linna, to stay the deportation order.

Tass noted Linna had been sentenced to death after a trial in absentia in 1962, but gave no indication whether a new trial was planned.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Gennady Gerasimov was asked about official plans for Linna, whose deportation had been sought by the Soviets for years.

"The criminal has been condemned. He was sentenced to capital punishment. He is entitled to ask for a pardon from the Tallin court that sentenced him," Gerasimov replied.

Linna, a retired land surveyor, has argued the Soviet Union may have falsified evidence it provided for his deportation trial.

Ernie Meyer adds: Karl Linna, the commander of the Tartu concentration camp in Estonia during World War II, was condemned to death in absentia in 1962 by a court in Tallin, the capital of Estonia.

Testimony in Linna's long-drawn-out appeals in the U.S. against his deportation to the Soviet Union revealed that he was responsible for the death of 12,000 Soviet citizens at the camp in the city of Tartu. Only a minority of Linna's victims were Jews, according to Ephraim Zuroff, director in Israel of the Simon Wiesenthal Centre of Los Angeles. More than one-third of Estonia's 5,000 Jews fled to Russia when the Germans invaded their country in the summer of 1941.

Linna came to the U.S. in 1951 and settled in Greenlawn, Long Island.

Fedor Federenko, a former Treblinka guard, was ordered deported from the U.S. in December 1984. He chose to go to the Soviet Union, where he was sentenced to death. It is not known whether the sentence has been carried out.

A Soviet official confirmed yesterday that Federenko's request for a pardon is still under consideration by the Supreme Soviet, the parliament, but added a decision was expected soon.

The importance of the Linna case is that it sets a precedent for the deportation to the Soviet Union of a former U.S. citizen, Zuroff told *The Jerusalem Post* yesterday. His is the third case of extradition or deportation of a U.S. citizen accused of war crimes. It follows that of Andrija Artukovic, 86, who was handed over to Yugoslavia, where he was sentenced to death, but sentence was not carried out because of his age.

The third case is that of John Demjanjuk, now on trial in Jerusalem.

Israel in 1985 turned down a U.S. request to accept and try Linna because his case did not meet Justice Ministry conditions, Zuroff said. These conditions are that the case must involve actual murder, the accused must be relatively young, and witnesses must be readily available.

In 1984 Israel declined to accept the case of Rumanian war criminal Bishop Valerian Trifa, who subsequently went to Portugal, where he died earlier this year, aged 72.



During the 17th re-enactment of the first battle of the American revolution on Lexington Green, a British redcoat of the 10th Regiment "bayonets" a Lexington minuteman. (Reuters telephoto)

## Indian navy officer suicide, possible link to kickbacks

BOMBAY (AP). — A navy officer scheduled to command a submarine that has been at the centre of a defence contract controversy was found dead of a single gunshot wound, police said yesterday.

The body of Commander Naaveen Chopra was found on Sunday in his quarters at the Western Naval Command in Bombay by his orderly, a police official said.

He said Chopra apparently died of a self-inflicted gunshot wound the night before.

It could not be determined if Chopra's death was related to the government's investigation of the submarine purchase contract. Chopra was commander-designate of the West German-made type 1500 submarine put into service by the Indian Navy in February.

According to reports, an overseas Indian agent allegedly was paid a \$23 million kickback on the \$334m contract that India signed in 1981 for four submarines.

Officials at the Howaldt Deutsche Werke shipyard in Kiel, West Germany, which built the subs, have denied the allegation.

Earlier this month, then-defence minister V.P. Singh announced a probe into alleged kickbacks on defence contracts. Singh resigned April 12 after other members of Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's Congress Party accused him of attempting to embarrass the government with the investigation.

A second alleged irregularity in an Indian weapons purchase has also been reported. State-run Swedish radio said Bofors AB of Stockholm allegedly paid \$5m. in bribes to Indian companies and individuals, among them members of Gandhi's party.

The payments were intended to secure the sale of \$1.7 b. of howitzers by Bofors to the Indian Army, the radio said.

The Swedish government yesterday asked the country's biggest arms maker to provide full details of the deal with India.

The Foreign Trade Ministry, responsible for all arms exports, said it had asked Bofors' parent company Nobel Industries to "shed full light on the case."

## Hostage syndrome is tragedy, not crime, says freed pilot

BOSTON (AP). — The 59-year-old pilot of a Trans World Airlines plane hijacked nearly two years ago shortly after it left Athens today calls his Shi'ite Moslem captors "the bitter harvest of the Palestinian tragedy" rather than terrorists.

Like many Americans, John Testrake says, he knew little about the Middle East conflict before the 17-day hijacking, when he was forced to fly the plane from Athens to Beirut to Algiers and back to Beirut before most of the passengers were released.

"While I can't sympathize with the specific actions which they used, still I can understand the desperation that causes (them) to do things," Testrake says.

Testrake has written a book, released this month about the hijacking of TWA flight 847 on June 14, 1985, because he wanted to "correct some of the misconceptions which are so prevalent in the U.S. regarding the Middle East. The book is entitled *Triumph Over Terror on Flight 847*."

In Beirut, 36 American men were taken hostage to scattered locations, while Testrake and two fellow crew members were held captive on the jet.

One passenger, U.S. Navy diver Robert Dean Stethem, 23, was

beaten and shot to death. Testrake dedicates his book to Stethem.

The picture of a hijacker waving a gun in front of Testrake's face as the airline captain peered from his cockpit window in Beirut shocked the world with the horrors of terrorism.

But today, Testrake almost smiles as he recalls the incident, which he says was staged by his captors.

"It didn't bother me then and it doesn't bother me now," he says. "Everybody else thought it was a big deal, but I didn't."

In a recent interview, Testrake says he had hoped U.S. officials would "take the lead in working with responsible elements in the Middle East to resolve some of the grievous injustices," responsible for conflict in the area, but he has been disappointed.

"Our government persists in maintaining this totally hostile attitude by treating this whole problem as if it's some violent criminal plague which needs to be ruthlessly eradicated," Testrake declares.

BIRTHDAY. — Queen Elizabeth II turned 61 yesterday, marking the occasion without fanfare at her Windsor Castle home outside London, Buckingham Palace said.

## 64 trainees hit Blast kills police cadet in Jo'burg

JOHANNESBURG. — A hand-grenade exploded at a crowded police parade ground, killing a black policeman and a bomb blast rocked a white neighbourhood yesterday in a flare-up of violence in South Africa, officials said.

In the most daring attack this year, an assailant threw the grenade from a moving vehicle into the Tladi police training centre at 8-40a.m. in Johannesburg's Soweto township, where recruits from all over the country were on parade, the State Bureau for Information said.

Black municipalities from all over the country send hundreds of young men for a 13-week training course to the Tladi centre to become township police.

No arrests were reported in either of the attacks.

The grenade killed a black township policeman and wounded 64 others, six of them seriously, the bureau said.

Six hours later, a bomb exploded under a parked car in the Mayfair district of Johannesburg, damaging the vehicle and breaking windows in nearby buildings, police said. There were no injuries.

An anonymous telephone caller claiming to represent the Azanian People's Liberation Army, guerrilla wing of the outlawed Pan-Africanist Congress (PAC) fighting white domination, said his organization was responsible for the parade ground attack.

The caller said the attacks would continue "until we win."

The parade ground casualty toll of 65 was the largest number of security officers ever hurt in a single attack in South Africa.

The grenade attack came as troops and police guarded railway stations to curb a wave of firebomb attacks on trains, apparently linked to a bitter strike by black transport workers. (Reuters, AP)

## Gen. Taylor dies at 85

WASHINGTON (AP). — Gen. Maxwell Taylor, a World War II airborne division commander who went on to become the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and U.S. ambassador to South Vietnam, died on Sunday at Walter Reed Army Medical Centre, the Defence Department has announced.

Taylor was 85. He was reported to have been ill for some time. "Throughout his life, Gen. Taylor epitomized what it means to be a soldier, a diplomat and a scholar," said Defence Secretary Caspar Weinberger.

He will be remembered as "one of the great military men in American history," Weinberger added.

A memorial service will be held tomorrow at nearby Ft. Myer Army Base in Virginia. Taylor will be buried with military honours at Arlington National Cemetery.

Taylor became head of the Joint Chiefs under President John Kennedy and ambassador to South Vietnam under President Lyndon Johnson.

As leader of the 101st and 82nd Airborne Divisions in World War Two, he participated in some of the war's most decisive campaigns in Normandy, Holland and Italy.

## French first to publish Walesa autobiography

PARIS (Reuters). — The first autobiography of Lech Walesa, leader of Poland's outlawed Solidarity Trade Union, will appear in French this week after more than a year of clandestine contacts, a publisher said yesterday.

Claude Durand, head of the Fayard publishing house, told a news conference 100,000 copies of the 600-page autobiography would go on sale tomorrow.

## UK newspaper tycoon rivals Murdoch

## Publisher Maxwell eyes U.S., Africa

LONDON (AFP). — With new deals concluded or in preparation on three continents, British publisher Robert Maxwell is set to create a worldwide media empire to rival that of Australian-American magnate Rupert Murdoch.

Two days after buying into France's main television station TF1, the left-leaning millionaire was in Madrid last week meeting King Juan Carlos of Spain with a view to breaking into that country's television.

Yesterday, as Maxwell completed his takeover of U.S. publishing giant Diversified Printing Corporation, media sources in Nairobi, Kenya, announced that Maxwell's flagship company, the British-based Pergamon Press, was poised to make its first foray into publishing in Africa.

Born of Jewish peasant parents in Czechoslovakia, 63-year-old Maxwell is close to attaining his stated goal of heading, by the end of the century, "one of the world's top media conglomerates."

In Britain, his adopted country after a distinguished war record fighting in the anti-Nazi resistance, Maxwell already controls more than 350 publications, including the prosperous *Mirror* Group newspapers (circulation: 10 million). His empire, covering sports and sci-

ence publications, is extending rapidly into cable and satellite television, electronics and engineering.

Maxwell also owns the professional soccer club in Oxford, northwest of London, where he lives in a grandiose country manor with his French-born wife, Marie.

Maxwell's initiatives in the British press have themselves become regular front-page news, the latest example being his creation of Britain's first round-the-clock newspaper, the *London Daily News*. In an unprecedentedly cut-throat news-stand conflict, he slashed the cover prices of the *News* by 50 per cent.

In France, a country that he holds in strong affection, Maxwell has become the major shareholder, with his son Ian, in the consortium that last week won control of the newly privatized national television station TF1. He has made clear his intention to play an active role in guiding the station's fortunes.

By winning control of the American firm Diversified Printing Corporation, the world's largest Sunday publisher (31 million sales weekly), Maxwell enters into direct competition on the home ground of his arch-rival Rupert Murdoch.

Outside their chosen vocation as media giants, where they have in common a high degree of ruthless-

ness and business acumen, the two men could hardly be less alike.

While Murdoch has openly used his publications to advance the case for free enterprise, Maxwell proclaims his attachment to left-wing causes. A former Labour member of Parliament, Maxwell's attitude to British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher is summed up in the formula: "She is not stupid: she is conservative."



Robert Maxwell

## NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

We will be marking "World Day for Laboratory Animals" on Thursday, April 23, opposite the Harnashbir Hamerkazi in Jerusalem, from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

The public is invited to join our peaceful demonstration.

For further details, please contact Trudy at 03-359014 (until 8 p.m.)

## ANIMAL LIBERATION

Israel Association Against Painful Experiments on Animals, P.O.B. 519, Givatayim 53104  
Registered Association No. 580052439.  
Bank account: Hapoalim, Kiryat Ono, no. 271515.

**THE CENTRE FOR CONSERVATIVE JUDAISM**  
Beit Knesset Moshesh Yisrael  
2-4 Agon St., Jerusalem, Tel. 227463, 226386

**Adult Education Institute**

The Five Megillot, 6 consecutive Thursday evenings, beginning this Thursday, April 23, at 8:00 p.m., with Dr. Bezalel Porten Parashat Hashavua, is resuming — Thursday evenings at 7:00 p.m.

Classes in Psalms, Talmud (Sunday evenings); Hebrew (Mon., Wed., Halacha (Tue.); Advanced Talmud (Wed.) — continuing until Shavu'ot (June 2)

Fourth Annual Israel Goldstein Holocaust Lecture "The Holocaust as History and as Fiction," Dr. Ezrahi, the Hebrew University, Mon., April 27, 8 p.m.

Jerusalem Day, annual Arts and Crafts Fair, Wed., May 27

Tikkun Leyl Shavu'ot study, Tuesday, June 2

New students welcome.



## Shamir at Mimouna: 'Israeli unity is answer to PNC'

By HAIM SHAPIRO

"The extremists and contemptible ones among our enemies are now plotting against Jerusalem," Prime Minister Shamir told a Mimouna gathering at the Yarkon Park in Tel Aviv yesterday.

"We will tell them that Israel is united," he declared to the enthusiastic crowd.

As thousands of Israelis of all ethnic backgrounds gathered yesterday to celebrate the Moroccan Jewish holiday which falls on the day after Pessah, Vice Premier Peres also took the opportunity to speak out against the Palestine National Council in Algiers.

Arafat's return to terror is a mis-



Prime Minister Shamir (left) at Mimouna celebrations yesterday is flanked by Tourism Minister Avraham Shari, Jewish Agency aliyah department chief Haim Aharon, World Zionist Organization head Arye Dulzin, and Mimouna festival chairman Sam Ben-Chetreet. In a separate event, Foreign Minister Peres (right) celebrates with former Sephardi chief rabbi Ovadia Yosef.

take, he said in Jerusalem. It doesn't contribute to peace. He added that he expected the incidents in the North to continue as long as the Algiers conference remained in session, but he noted that the IDF was ready for any eventuality.

Shamir also alluded to the 'Katyushas in the North, saying that "after the blood-letting in Lebanon, they want to bring Lebanon here."

Despite the statements by political leaders, the Mimouna festivities for the most part were a non-political

affair, with families basking in the sunshine.

In Jerusalem's Sacher Park, Arabs from the nearby village of Abu Ghosh offered coffee alongside other Israelis offering Persian, Yemenite and Ethiopian delicacies



Foreign Minister Peres (right) celebrates with former Sephardi chief rabbi Ovadia Yosef.

and folklore. A giant robot preached road safety among them.

There were, of course, many Moroccans, including some in traditional dress. But in many cases it was difficult to tell the Moroccans from other immigrants from Moslem

countries, or, for that matter, from the Ashkenazis.

While some families enjoyed the light, sweet foods which are traditional during the Mimouna, many others used the opportunity to grill their steaks and kebabs over char-

coal fires, casting a haze of smoke over Sacher Park.

An elderly woman danced to music from a tape recorder. When it ended, she stopped and smiled. "What's the Mimouna?" she asked. "It's pure enjoyment."

## Author of 'The Passover Plot':

## New Testament stories about Jesus were 'borrowed' from Josephus

By HAIM SHAPIRO

Jerusalem Post Reporter Hugh Schonfield, the British historical writer who scandalized some Christian circles with *The Passover Plot*, in which he argued that the resurrection of Jesus was a careful fabrication, is still at it.

In an interview with *The Jerusalem Post*, he related that he had uncovered evidence "never disclosed before," that the evangelist Luke "borrowed" many incidents, ostensibly about the life of Jesus, from the works of the Roman-Jewish historian Josephus.

Visiting Israel to deliver a series of lectures on behalf of the Institute for Biblical Polemics, a body devoted to refuting the teachings of Christian missionaries, Schonfield told *The Post* that soon after the time of Jesus, the entire country was devastated by the Jewish war against the Romans.

With little factual evidence, he said, the story of Jesus' life had to be "invented." Josephus, he added, was the source for the story that the boy Jesus was brought to the Temple, and that while he was there the rabbis consulted with him.

In fact, Schonfield said, Josephus had been writing about himself: he was a prodigy who, as a child, had been consulted by the rabbis.

Another example was the account in Luke that Jesus had been born during a period of Roman tax col-



Hugh Schonfield (Y. Zaken, Media)

lection. This, the British writer said, was taken from Josephus' account of Judas of Galilee and Jewish antagonism to Roman taxes.

It was added, Schonfield said, "to make a good story."

A sprightly 85-year-old who moves with difficulty but still enjoys an exchange of ideas, Schonfield

remarked at the proliferation of Christian religious sites, which, he said, had little relation to any authentic locations.

After the Jewish revolt and the destruction of Jerusalem, the city was completely destroyed and rebuilt according to a different pattern. Such shrines as the "House of Mary" or the "House of Anna" he said, were established "purely to attract pilgrims and keep them to the faith."

"The Via Dolorosa never existed at the time of Jesus," he said.

But Schonfield, who is a member of a Liberal synagogue, was not uncritical about the Hebrew Bible, which, he said, had a "considerable amount of legend." Much of the Bible was lost at the time of the Maccabees, he said, and what was left was difficult to reconstruct.

He has written primarily about the New Testament because he is a classicist, with a background in Greek and Latin literature.

In the U.S., the Catholic Church tried to keep him from appearing on radio and television.

Asked how he felt about the fact that the film version of *The Passover Plot* had been banned by the Israeli film censorship board, he said:

"I'm not surprised. It was a bad film. It didn't tell the story of my book at all."

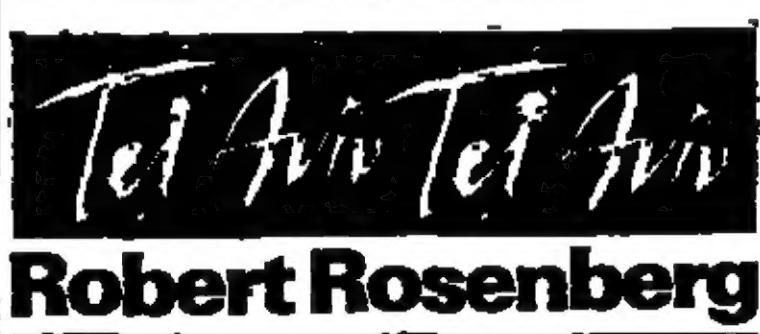
## Pessah panic in pizza park

For a week the streets had been dry.

From 100 metres away, one could see the narco squad approaching, in long black coats and beards. As soon as they were in sight, the dealers would have to close up shop and make tracks. At most, they could offer soft drinks instead of the hard stuff.

There was panic in pizza park.

In past years, the panic had never been so great. But this year the legislators up in the mountains had bowed to the anti-pizza lobby. Politicians who had been known to be regular users were suddenly claiming to be founding members of the anti-pizza lobby, saying it was traditional and moral and denying that they ever had been into the stuff.



Robert Rosenberg

The really desperate, of course, could go to Jaffa and buy pita.

But despite all the confusions of pronunciation for those who don't know the difference, there is nothing in common between the two, unless one is trying to eat pizza undercover, between the sheets - of pita - so to speak. One is all soft and the other, in its purest form, is difficult to find but, say the experts from the street, is supposed to be crispy and crunchy.

So when the word got out that on Monday night a huge supply of pizza was suddenly becoming available, the street vibrated with the news.

Whole families, desperate for a fix, made their way to the rough and tumble neighbourhoods where the dealers made no secret of their wares.

The rumours said that by 7 p.m. there would be stuff for sale.

But the narco squad was on the streets, too. Their mere presence frightened off dealers who had planned to work all day to prepare for the big night. The dealers stood behind their counters, staring at the crowds and watching the clock, waiting for the informers to disappear so that business could begin.

The informers, of course, were playing a double game. On Dizengoff they lied to the dealers about the exact hour the narco squad would be gone, and a few opened for business only to be chastised by the bearded narcos.

Anyway the dealers on Dizengoff weren't smart enough to check the newspapers, where, between the lines, in secret code under an ad called "candle lighting," it was possible to discover the narco squad's timetable.

But elsewhere, in the joints where the costs are steep to cover the protection money that pays for the parchment on the wall, they knew exactly what time they could start supplying. At exactly 7:49 they opened the ovens.

The crowds rushed forward. "A slice, a slice," cried a father, his two youngest sons clutching his knees, begging for a piece of pie.

"Gimme one with everything on it," said a teenager.

"Anchovies?" asked the dealer, recognizing in the youth's pock-marked complexion the tell-tale symptoms of a heavy user.

"Yea, double the anchovies," said the junkie, adding, almost as an afterthought, "a double cola, too."

The crowds at each dealers' door made no effort to hide their intention.

It had been a week since anybody



had been able to get the pure stuff, not the frozen and then reheated nickel bags that they had stashed for dry times, but the real stuff, with crispy edges and just the right amount of cheese, and everybody behaved as if they'd never get a chance for the real stuff again.

It would be a long night for the

dealers, but even the dumbest of them knew that it would be their best night until the fall, when, although the streets would be dry for only 24 hours, afterwards they might even get their flour-stained claws to turn some first-time users into occasional users, which is the way to get them onto the hard stuff.

## Packed houses find Yiddish operetta rejuvenating

By GREER FAY CASHMAN

At the Jerusalem Theatre last week, extra chairs had to be brought in to seat the overflow audience. The house had been packed in Tel Aviv, Ramle and Herzliya, too. The play *Wedding in the Shtetl*, a Yiddish operetta. Its star is Mike Burstyn, who plays the role his father Pesach Burstyn started to make famous 60 years ago.

A contemporary version of the story of Joseph and his brothers, the play was written for the elder Burstyn by William Segal, one of the most prolific writers in the American Yiddish theatre. Burstyn toured with it in Poland and Russia, where audiences loved the tale of the prodigal son of Reb Isserel, the Briititzer Rebbe. Appearing then and now is Pesach Burstyn's leading lady and Mike's mother, Lilian Lux.

Over the next six to eight weeks, Burstyn intends to take it all over the country, except to Eilat, where he doubts there would be a large enough audience to warrant the production costs.

At the Jerusalem Theatre elderly men and women sitting near this reporter seemed to know the operetta by heart and murmured the



Mike Burstyn and the late Pesach Burstyn.

words in time with the action on stage.

Mike Burstyn hasn't changed a syllable in the production his father directed for so many years. He even wears his father's costume. The nostalgia rejuvenates the audience. People who three hours earlier were bent over canes, stand straight-backed, transported in mood to the



Mike Burstyn and the late Pesach Burstyn.

days of their youth.

The revitalization of Yiddish in many parts of the Jewish world convinced Mike Burstyn that this was the best way to honour his father, who died in April last year, aged 85.

He is also thinking about presenting a regular Yiddish variety show on television. It should not be left to radio and stage alone to carry the

banner of Yiddish entertainment, he says. There's room for Yiddish on TV too. Burstyn would also like to play Tevya, in *Fiddler on the Roof*, in Hebrew. Whoever takes on the challenge of Tevya, he says, should come from a Yiddish theatre background.

Burstyn, who divides his time mostly between Israel and the U.S., is directing and playing the lead in *August, August*, scheduled to open in New York in September. He has also been offered the lead role in a new musical about Theodor Herzl, whose producers are hoping to find the \$4 million to stage the show on Broadway as a curtain-raiser for Israel's 40th anniversary celebrations.

Meanwhile, there's no shortage of work for the versatile singer, actor and compere, who performs with equal ease in several languages, including Dutch. Burstyn had his own regular variety show in Holland for four years and still does occasional specials for Dutch TV.

But Burstyn is most at home in Yiddish theatre and a sentimental journey has brought him back to Israel now for "a catharsis which brings me closer to my father."

## VOICES

(Continued from Page One)

prime minister's aides, Peres's unrelenting advocacy of the conference has already damaged Israel. These aides said that until a year or two ago, only the Soviets were interested in a conference. Now they have been joined by the Europeans and the Arab world, putting great pressure on Israel to also agree to the idea.

Moreover, the international enthusiasm about the conference has put paid to any thought in the immediate future of reviving the Camp David framework.

At the same time, Peres "has not really succeeded in dealing out the PLO," said one senior Shamir aide.

But sources in the Foreign Ministry yesterday argued that the PLO-Jordanian rift, as sealed by the rejec-

tion of the 1985 accord, might now enable Jordan and Egypt to move forward without having to take account of the PLO or its positions.

"This has freed the Arab moderates from the yoke of the PLO. Now, Jordan must display courage," said the sources.

The political director-general of the Foreign Ministry, Yossi Beilin, a close confidant of Peres, yesterday said that "only those who had pinned their hopes on the PLO had reason to be disappointed." Along with the vast majority of Israelis, he had never entertained such hopes, and was not disappointed, he said. Beilin said that the PNC move might now persuade Jordan and Egypt that "the PLO cannot be a partner to negotiations." He concluded that Arafat's decision to prefer PLO unity to moderation "could hasten the peace process rather than delay it."

## SYRIANS

(Continued from Page One)

most saying that the "cabinet expresses condolences to the families of the soldiers who fell" and "extends greetings to the northern border settlements" praising their "exemplary" behaviour in the past few days. The government will do "all in its power to preserve the peace of the Golan," stated the ministers.

Rabin yesterday predicted that the new attempts to hit us would continue so long as the PNC was in session. He said that Israel is "aware that Fatah (PLO chairman Yasser) Arafat and his murderous henchmen are making every effort in the past week... to increase the number of attacks and the unrest in Lebanon and within the territories, and from the territories against targets in Israel."

Rabin, speaking to Israel Radio, said that whereas the two Shi'ite military organizations, Amal and the Hizbullah, directed the bulk of their efforts against Israeli and Lebanese targets in the security zone, with occasional Katyusha attacks on Israel proper, the "Palestinian terrorist organizations are focusing first and foremost on an attempt to attack targets inside Israel."

Rabin said that he believed "the four incidents of Katyusha fire in the past week" were "for the most part" carried out by "Palestinian terrorist elements... (mainly) by Fatah."

Rabin said that despite the recent wave of incidents, Israel was not changing its policy vis-a-vis South Lebanon but was "adapting it to the reality that has recently evolved."

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# Arafat achieves a show of unity

ALGIERS. — The Palestinian parliament-in-exile was set to debate the Palestinian movement's ties with the rest of the world yesterday after a reconciliation meeting on Monday that analysts said tightened Yasser Arafat's grip on the Palestine Liberation Organization.

Palestinian sources said the report on the PLO's international relations had been prepared by the head of the organization's political department, Farouk Kaddumi, working under Arafat's supervision.

Meanwhile, observers were still studying the aftermath of the first day of the Palestine National Council (PNC) meeting, in which the PLO chairman ended a four-year rift with some of his most embittered rivals.

The observers pointed to the ovation that Arafat received as he entered the meeting hall, flanked by President Chadli Bendjedid of Algeria, as a sign that he was once again the PLO's uncontested leader.

The grand entrance came less than two hours after Arafat made a key concession to his detractors — George Habash of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) and Nayef Hawatmeh of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP) — by

annulling his February 1985 accord with King Hussein of Jordan.

The move was seen as having little political cost for Arafat, as his ties with Amman had already been clouded by his refusal to formally accept UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338.

The PLO has always rejected these resolutions, as they refer to a Palestinian "refugee problem" and not the need for a Palestinian homeland.

ALTHOUGH Arafat was able to reunite with two powerful Syrian-backed groups, he remains at odds with half a dozen hardline factions who insist that he break ties with Egypt because of its treaty with Israel.

Chief of these is the Abu Nidal group, which has claimed a number of terrorist operations in the West, including the June 9, 1982, attempted murder of the Israeli ambassador in London, Shlomo Argov, which was cited by Israel as the cause for its invasion of Lebanon; the December 27, 1985, massacres at Rome and Vienna airports; and the killing of several prominent pro-Arafat Palestinian moderates. Palestinian sources reported that Abu Nidal

had recently had several reconciliation talks with senior PLO officials, but decided to boycott the PNC meeting chiefly because his group had been refused representation at the council session, more than any policy decision.

Another notable absentee was Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi, who had also been expected to attend despite months of exchanges of invective with Arafat.

Sources in pro-Syrian Palestinian dissident factions said Col. Gaddafi had boycotted the meeting because of the PLO chairman's refusal to meet hardline demands on ties with Egypt. In Kuwait, however, Libyan Foreign Minister Jadhalla Azur Talhi stressed Libya's interest in Palestinian unity and Gaddafi's part in preparing the PNC gathering.

In another incident on Monday pointing to current difficulties in inter-Arab ties, Moroccan delegates walked out of the PNC conference chamber when Mohamed Abdelaziz, the secretary-general of the Algerian-backed Polisario Front, entered.

The PLO has traditionally been cautious in its dealings with the Polisario, whose guerrillas have been fighting a 12-year battle against

Moroccan troops for control of the former Spanish colony of the Western Sahara.

Arafat, apparently fearing that proximity with the Polisario could upset the PLO's ties with Morocco, met Abdelaziz for the first time only two months ago.

Their talks notably came six months after King Hassan II of Morocco met with then Israeli premier Shimon Peres, in a headline-making parley that triggered bitter criticism from Arab hardliners.

The pro-Arafat factions attending the PNC are the PLO chief's Fatah organization, the Palestine Liberation Front of Mohamed Abbas (Abu Abbas), and the pro-Iraqi Arab Liberation Front.

PNC delegates will debate a political programme worked out during a week of preparatory talks here between the factions, including the issue of a proposed Middle East peace conference.

Arafat welcomed European support for the conference idea during his opening speech, and Habash said he considered it the best way to find a solution to the Middle East conflict.

Other key items to be discussed include PLO relations with Egypt. (AFP, Reuters)



PLO leader Yasser Arafat.

(Camera Press)

## Setback for a parley

John Rice / Amman

called the agreement "an historic and unprecedented opportunity to resolve the Middle East conflict peacefully."

He warned: "It is an opportunity that I know will never come again."

The Amman accord took the PLO as close to peace negotiations with Israel as it has ever been, amid hopes the agreement would lure the United States into a dominant role in Middle East peace efforts.

Now, with the accord in tatters

and Arafat pushed into a more radical position, what faint hopes still flickered in Jordan that peace with its Jewish neighbor was possible in the near future have dimmed.

Jordan, Egypt and moderate Israelis are seeking an international peace conference held under UN

auspices with the five permanent members of the Security Council, including the Soviet Union, attending.

They have won tentative support this year in Western Europe and the U.S.

Even radical Syria has grown more flexible, said former U.S. president Jimmy Carter after he met Syrian President Hafez Assad in Damascus last month.

BUT PLO support is crucial to any peace conference and Arafat's decision to formally abandon the Amman accord, the price he had to pay to reunite the fragmented PLO, has dismayed moderates.

Arafat announced the break Sunday in Algiers on the eve of a meeting of the Palestine National Council, the Palestinians' parliament-in-exile. But Palestinian officials have been signalling the abrogation for some weeks.

Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak said last week: "Frankly I'm not optimistic after what the Palestinians have done that an international con-

ference can be held this year."

Palestinian hardliners are also pressing Arafat to break with Mubarak over Egypt's 1979 peace treaty with Israel, the only such treaty by an Arab country.

The Amman agreement was important because it offered the Americans two pieces of bait: A joint Jordanian-PLO delegation to peace talks to ease Israeli opposition to meeting with what they consider terrorists and the possibility of a Palestinian state tied to Jordan.

U.S. and Israeli moderates saw that as a chance to head off a Soviet-allied Palestinian state on Israel's border.

PLO hardliners reunited with Arafat insist on a separate PLO delegation and stronger guarantees of an independent Palestinian state, although they accept the idea of an eventual confederation.

Hussein has ruled out any talks sponsored solely by Washington, charging that the U.S. is too closely allied with Israel to be a fair mediator. He says the Soviets must take part.

The Soviets encouraged the PLO to drop the Amman accord and reunify its factions. They are not likely to follow that by agreeing to a peace conference without the PLO.

(Associated Press)

THE POLITICAL system in the West Bank is characterized by total dependence on Israel, Jordan and the PLO and it is these three bodies which have shaped the political positions of the local population. Over 15 periodicals are published today in East Jerusalem and the Gaza Strip and the importance of the East Jerusalem press, and its centrality in PLO eyes, has risen in recent years for it has been charged with the task of achieving unified ranks through a unified voice. The press in the territories is therefore a mobilized and partisan press — a fact which has put an increasing strain on its relations with Israeli authorities.

As a matter of course, anything dealing with the occupation or with anti-Israeli protest is reported in great detail. Considerable resources are earmarked for coverage of Israeli Arabs. But there is also another mood which finds no expression in the mobilized press — the gradual strengthening of Jordan's position in the territories. Thus, the question of how representative the Arabic press in the territories is should be approached with caution.

A brief look at the nature of the local politics that have taken form in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip since the start of Israeli rule in 1967, will help sketch a political portrait of this partisan press. One is immediately struck by the fact that no independent political entity of local character has sprung up in the territories.

The influence of Jordan and Israel particularly has throughout the years, prevented the establishment of an independent political power base in the territories. From the point of view of both organization and ideology, Jordan nurtured the status quo, while Israel, basing itself on Jordanian law, consistently prohibited all party organization and local initiative — from Hebron Mayor Sheikh Jabari's attempts to convene a representative body at the end of the '60s to the National Guidance Committee's efforts to provide organized leadership for the territories' residents.

The press in the territories accurately reflects the nature of the local politics. Just as the political system split according to local identification with external patrons, and no independent power base sprung up, so too, no independent press developed: the East Jerusalem press cannot be seen as an independent framework expressing political positions unique to the inhabitants of the territories.

The periodicals in East Jerusalem and the Gaza Strip today give expression to the range of political thought, each publication according to the political affiliation of its editors and owners. While there have in the past been efforts to publish newspapers reflecting an independent spirit, these publications were short-lived and soon disappeared. Such, for example, were the attempts made by Muhammad Abu Shalabya who in the early '70s advocated direct negotiation between the inhabitants of the territories and Israel, and by circles connected with the Villagers Association in the '80s.

More recently, the press in the territories has become clearly Palestinian in character, identifying with PLO positions. This is not to say that these positions are monolithic: on the contrary, every newspaper, weekly or monthly adheres to its own particular line.

THE RADICAL role of the Palestinian organizations used to have two publications: a daily called *Al-Mithaq* (The Covenant) and a weekly called *Al-Ahd* (The Alliance). Until they were banned in July 1986, these papers reflected the view of the Rejectionist Front, i.e., of the Popular Front, the Democratic Front and Abu Mussa's rebellious circles. A similar stance continues to be portrayed by the weekly *Al-Tijah* (The Pioneer), the official organ of the

## Partisan press

Dr. Eli Reches examines the political role played by the press in the occupied territories

Palestinian Communist Party in the territories. This publication unquestionably reflects the position of the Soviet Union and the Palestinian organizations supported by it. Its coverage is devoted to the vast coverage it gives to issues relating to workers' unions, and the class struggle. The communists also have a literary monthly called *Al-Kaib* (The Writer).

Alongside the Rejectionist Front, stands a rival battery of oppositionist periodicals, representing the views of the Fatah camp in the PLO. Most prominent in this category is the *Al-Fajr* (The Dawn) publishing house, which puts out an Arabic daily and an English weekly aimed at the Israeli public, foreign journalists, diplomatic circles and foreign readers. *Al-Fajr*, under its owner Paul Ajlouny and its editor Hanna Siniora, is considered to represent the stream led by Hani al-Hassan and the pragmatic stream in Fatah.

Another daily in this category is *A-Sha'ab* (The People), under the ownership of Ali Abu Yash. *A-Sha'ab*, too, espouses Arafat's view but in the internal Palestinian debate, it takes the more militant stance professed by Salah Khalaf (Abu Iyad) and supports Syria. The paper's editor, Akram Haniyeh, was deported to Europe at the end of 1986 after being convicted of engaging in hostile activity.

Fatah supporters also have two weeklies: *Al-Badr* and *Al-Sassi*, a rather moderate publication edited by Jack Hazmo, and *Al-Awda*, published in Hebrew and in English by the Palestinian Press Service Office, owned by Ibrahim Kara'een and Raymonda Tawil. Two more newspapers reflect Fatah's views but they do not appear regularly: *Al-Mawj* and *Al-Usbu* *Al-Jadid*. They are backed by the Arabic Council for Public Affairs, an information service which faithfully reflects the organization's views. An interesting and noteworthy phenomenon is the new Hebrew publication *Gesher*, edited by Ziad Abu Zayad, which also represents the central stream of the PLO.

The publications supporting the PLO were joined in recent months by the oldest West Bank newspaper — *Al-Kuds*. For years, the paper and its owner, Mahmud Abu Zulfur, were known as Hussein's principal mouthpiece in the territories. But the paper unexpectedly changed direction and turned from an enthusiastic supporter of Jordanian policy into a sharp critic of the king. Hussein's February 1986 speech, in which he announced the severance of contacts with the PLO, was received by an editorial entitled, "The Speech Which Should Not Have Been Made."

This turnaround in *Al-Kuds*'s position, compelled the pro-Hashemite elements to quickly organize and publish their own publication. Thus, since March 1986, the weekly *An-Nahar* has appeared, edited by attorney Issam al-Anani and businessman Othman al-Halak. Both known for their support of Jordan. According to the editors, their "independent Palestinian" publication is opposed to the PLO leadership — but not to the PLO itself; its basic tendencies however are well-known.

As was said above, the press in the

territories gives expression to the relative balance of power between the external parties on which the local population is dependent at any given time. Thus, for example, since the start of the rapprochement between the Hashemite regime and the PLO in early 1984, and throughout the process — which gained impetus at the Palestinian National Council's convention in November 1984 and culminated in the signed agreement of February 11, 1985 — the pro-Fatah press drew closer to *Al-Kuds* which still reflected the pro-Hashemite position.

The Rejectionist Front saw these events in an entirely different light. To them, the rapprochement between Jordan and the PLO was an act of national betrayal on Arafat's part, a "submissive shift to the right" serving the imperialistic American-Israeli interests, and a "destructive solution" which would only widen the fissures in the ranks of the Palestinian people.

A vociferous and impassioned newspaper-war erupted between *Al-Ahd* on the one hand and *Al-Sha'ab* and *Al-Fajr* on the other. The sharp exchanges reflected the lack of political consensus in the territories, the cooperation at the time between Hussein's supporters and Arafat, and the internal divisions within the PLO. The sectarian clashes between the representatives of the opposing

Senior military sources involved in the territories say PLO activists now rely far less on circulars and graffiti to express their message as the task has been partially entrusted to the press

streams have since continued to be reiterated in the pages of the press. Just as they have become a permanent feature at West Bank universities.

Today, as a result of the crisis between Jordan and the PLO, the pro-PLO press warmly defends the organization's positions but at the same time seeks ways of restoring the dialogue between the two sides. The pro-Jordanians, through *An-Nahar*, have adopted a different line: they have been attempting to influence public opinion in favour of Jordan's re-entrenchment in the territories.

THE IMPORTANCE of the East Jerusalem press, and its centrality in PLO eyes, has risen considerably in recent years. The neutralization of the influence of the Arab towns as foci of political power in the West Bank, and the cessation of the activities of the National Guidance Committee, left a vacuum of sorts in the functioning of the pro-PLO stream. This development was concomitant with the organization's loss of status in wake of the Lebanese war. Since then, the PLO has taken steps to restore its pockets of power in the territories by intensifying its activi-

ties in the universities and the unions, and through the press.

The press was charged with the task of achieving unified ranks through a unified voice and the PLO invested a good deal of effort in developing a broad infrastructure of dailies, weeklies and monthlies to support it on a regular basis. The press revealed itself as an effective means of influencing public opinion. Internally, it explained the organization's positions to activists in the territories; and externally, it presented a consolidated and unified front comprising the inhabitants inside the territories and the leadership outside.

Senior military sources involved in the territories say PLO activists now rely far less on circulars and graffiti to express their message as the task has been partially entrusted to the press. Spokesmen for the military government also claim that basic policy is from time to time dictated from the outside by telecommunication and other means. The press reaction to an important event, they add, has on occasion been delayed until the line to pursue was received from abroad.

According to those actively involved in it, the press in the territories is a mobilized and partisan press with a mission and a purpose. Paul Ajlouny defines this purpose as "the promotion of a Palestinian state." *Al-Tijah*'s editor Bargouthi, expressed himself similarly in a poem by contending that the press was "one of the cells of struggle against the occupation," while Hanna Siniora explained that the press strove to do away with the occupation by "exposing everything the occupation does."

The mobilization of the press in the cause of disseminating the Palestinian view is evidence of its growing influence, as is the fact that it has concomitantly become a "national institution" of the first order. Some of the editors have in the past numbered among the leaders of the National Guidance Committee, and Hanna Siniora, for example, was chosen as the accepted PLO representative to the international conference, should it convene. Newspaper offices have become an attraction for various foreign elements (ambassadors, consuls, guests, international emissaries and foreign correspondents) who come to consult, elicit information, and gauge the mood. A full social life has developed in East Jerusalem around this focal point.

THE GROWING political power of the East Jerusalem press, and its commitment to the PLO has led to strained relations with the Israeli authorities. The military censorship often bans large parts of the material submitted to it, but over the years a technique has been found to circumvent this obstacle. Arab reporters leak sensitive news items to their colleagues in Israel: these are then published in Israel — and the next day reprinted in the West Bank papers.

The financial backing of the Arab press provides yet another bone of contention. According to military sources, the pro-PLO press is funded by the organization's money which is transferred in various "laundered" forms from abroad. This view is shared by foreign journalists such as the *New York Times* correspondent who wrote (on July 9, 1986) that the PLO pours money into the universities and the press to counteract similar funding received from Jordan. Spokesmen for the Arab press dismiss these claims out of hand; their income, they say, derives from sales, independent financing and assistance from international voluntary bodies.

The chief dispute between the press and the military government concerns the blurring of the borders which the authorities say has taken place between avowed support for the PLO and active membership in a hostile organization. On this basis, *Al-Mithaq* and *Al-Ahd* were shut down last summer.



Mastheads from three East Jerusalem newspapers: 'Al Quds,' 'Geshar' and 'Al-Fajr.'

As is customary, the owners petitioned the High Court of Justice against the closures. They also managed to enlist Israeli public opinion, particularly among their colleagues in Jerusalem who saw the shut-down as a crude violation of the elementary right of freedom of expression. The court, however, thought otherwise. The prime reason for revoking the papers' licenses, it ruled, was not "one or another opinion," but the "extensive organizational involvement of the Popular Front in the operations and financing of the newspapers."

A similar debate was sparked at the end of 1986 when Akram Haniyeh, the editor of *Al-Sha'ab* was issued with a deportation order for engaging in hostile activity. Again, Israeli public opinion opposed the motive behind the deportation: it argued that the measure had been taken because of Haniyeh's political views. The authorities could not give a full explanation and the military government found itself in a bind: it could not publicize the evidence against Haniyeh for fear of exposing the sources of the incriminating information and the manner in which it had been obtained. The classified material could only be presented to the court.

Shortly before his case was to be heard, Haniyeh withdrew his petition from the High Court of Justice and accepted the administrative deportation order from the O/C Central Command. He had apparently concluded that his chances of convincing the judges of his innocence were slim. Only after his deportation, at the end of December 1986, did the security services allow some of the evidence to be publicized.

It appears that Haniyeh had served as one of Fatah's senior commanders in the territories. He had not been involved in terrorist acts but he had attempted to reinforce the organization by funneling them money and he had been in charge of formulating PLO policy in the territories. According to the security sources, he had latterly been trying to establish a split among the activists as well as to coordinate reports, distribute funds and issue instructions.

The West Bank journalists, it should be noted, are open to sanctions not only from Israel. A strong anti-Hussein article has, in the past, led to a firm response, be it a denial of entry into Jordan or measures against journalists staying in Amman. The PLO too has spoken out against journalists who, to its mind, wrote too indolently or moderately.

The technical and journalistic level of the East Jerusalem press is not of the highest. Most of its space is devoted to Palestinian-Jordanian affairs, each newspaper according to its affiliation and point of view. As a matter of course, anything dealing with the occupation or with anti-Israel protest is reported in great detail: demonstrations, disturbances, expropriation, etc. At the same time, the press has a markedly provincial approach, covering events on the village level. In recent

years there has been a tendency to give wider coverage to events in Israel proper. Columns specifically devoted to Israeli affairs include translations from the Israeli press, interviews with well-known figures, investigative reporting and book abstracts.

Considerable resources are earmarked for coverage of Israel's Arabs. MK Muhammad Wattad contributes a regular column to one of the papers, and the *Progressive List* is affiliated with *Al-Fajr*. These trends reflect the growing coalescence of the Arabs in Israel and in the territories.

The East Jerusalem press also has columns unique to the Arab publications published under Israeli rule. Thus virtually all the papers carry detailed reports in the vein of "who was arrested — who was tried — who was released." Obituaries in these papers go beyond the emotional family sphere, and the announcement — or non-announcement — of the death of a Jordanian leader, for example, or a Palestinian commander, is definitely construed as a political act.

THE KEY question is to what extent the press reflects or represents the political positions of the inhabitants of the territories. The answer is not clear-cut, but multi-faceted. The abundance of publications supporting the PLO gives the decided impression that there is a definite consensus regarding the PLO positions, and an utter rejection of the Jordanian-Hashemite regime. It may reasonably be supposed that this is indeed the predominant viewpoint among the intelligentsia, particularly in the universities.

However, it is equally reasonable to suppose that there are other moods which do not find expression in the mobilized press. Recently there have been more reports on Jordan's growing status in the territories, a trend which gained added impetus following Hussein's break with Arafat and the publication of the Jordanian plan for the development of the West Bank. Another reflection of this trend was the appointment of three Arab mayors in the West Bank after an agreement was reached between Jordan and Israel. This is hardly the impression to be gained from a reading of the East Jerusalem press which supports the PLO.

The question of how representative the Arabic press in the territories is, should thus be approached with caution. Its contribution to an understanding of the political process in the territories cannot be overstated, but one must allow for its relative influence and weigh it against other variables, in order to achieve as objective a picture as possible.

The above essay was published in the "Defence Ministry Monthly Review." The writer researches Arab society and politics in Israel and the territories at Tel Aviv University's Dayan Institute. Translated by Evelyn Abel.

The Middle East page is edited by Yehuda Litani.

## Iran may stop oil to Syria

IRAN TOLD Syria in March that it would stop supplying it with crude oil until the disputes between the two countries were settled, the Kuwait daily newspaper *al-Qabas* said this week.

Quoting Western sources, the article said that the last load of Iranian crude for Syria, 260,000 tons, had been delivered in two instalments during the first week in March. Iranian officials informed Syria that they were ready to resume deliveries if the Syrian debt to Iran were settled — a debt estimated by experts quoted by *al-Qabas* at \$1.8 billion to \$2 billion.

But, again quoting Western sources, the paper said that the Iranian-Syrian dispute also has a political aspect, bearing on three issues: The Lebanese situation, Syrian-Iraqi relations, and relations between Damascus and Teheran. It said that "Iran considers that it has interests in Lebanon and that it is the real defender of Moslems in that country."

Hence Iran refuses to deal with Syria insofar as the latter country claims the leading role in Lebanon, and Iranian leaders are determined to proclaim an Islamic republic in that country at the appropriate time.

*Al-Qabas* also said that "the Iranians no longer accept Syrian advice about the Gulf War and its relationships with the countries in the region."

(AFP)

## Moslem Brotherhood 'Egypt should apply Islamic law slowly'

ISLAMIC LAW, or *sharia*, should be applied gradually, the spiritual guide of the Moslem Brotherhood, Sheikh Hamed Abu Nasr, said in an interview in the Cairo daily, *October*.

In Moslem doctrine, he stated, "Alcohol and slavery were banned in several stages," and the *sharia* should therefore "be applied without haste, with thorough study and without precipitation," criticizing Sudan's ousted president Ja'afar Numeiry for his "rapid application" of the *sharia* in September 1983.

Sheikh Abu Nasr said religion and politics should not be separated. "We believe there are no differences between the two," he explained, adding, "Violence is not our code of conduct."

He disclaimed all responsibility in religious unrest that broke out before legislative elections on April 6, in which Moslem Brotherhood candidates won more than 20 seats in the new People's Assembly after running on the tickets of two other parties — the Socialist Action Party and the Liberal Party.

Sheikh Abu Nasr said he would like the government here to allow the brotherhood, a tolerated but unofficial movement, to form a party. "There is no longer reason to be in hiding," he explained, adding that the brotherhood did not wish to take over the reins of power in Egypt.

Commenting on Middle East conflicts, Sheikh Abu Nasr said that, to the brotherhood, the *jihad* (holy war) was the only settlement of the Palestinian problem, and mentioned that his recent invitation to Teheran by Iranian officials was withdrawn when he expressed the wish to mediate in the war between Iran and Iraq.

(AFP)





The PS/2 family - 'a base to personal computing trends into the 1990s.'

## IBM STRIKES BACK

MOVING aggressively to lose its paralysed Goliath image, IBM Corporation has launched a new family of personal computers. The eight Personal System/2 (PS/2) models will eventually replace IBM's old generation of home and small business computers.

The new computers, geared primarily for the business community, utilize new technologies and programmes to provide a faster and more flexible working environment. Internally, the computers are based on a wireless design: there are no wires connecting the various components, and the entire computer can be assembled and taken apart without even a screwdriver.

"The PS/2 family is a continuation of IBM's line of personal computers, and it serves the company as a base to personal computing trends into the 1990s," said Zvi Yanai, IBM spokesman.

A plastic-packed 3.5" floppy disk replaces the traditional 5.25" diskettes. The new disk stores more than 700,000 characters as opposed to 360,000 characters stored in the old diskette. For additional storage room, all PS/2 models contain hard disks with storage capacity of 20 million to 115 million characters.

Top of the line PS/2 models 50, 60 and 80, can accommodate an optical

Doron Pely

disk permanent-storage device. Based on laser-gun Compact Disk technology, the optical disk can pack 200 million characters onto a single 5.25" disk. The drawback of this relatively new technology is the user's inability to erase and re-write information on the optical disk. Once written on, the optical disk becomes a read-only media.

PS/2 Model 80 is IBM's first micro-computer based on Intel's 80386 micro-processor. A micro-processor is the electronic heart of every computer, and the 80386 is the latest innovation in this field. The Intel 80386 is the fastest, most sophisticated micro-processor available today for use in micro-computers.

IN ADDITION to computers, the PS/2 family includes four new printers, a new operating system (a computer program to coordinate between the user, computer and peripherals), four new display monitors and a multi-lingual character set.

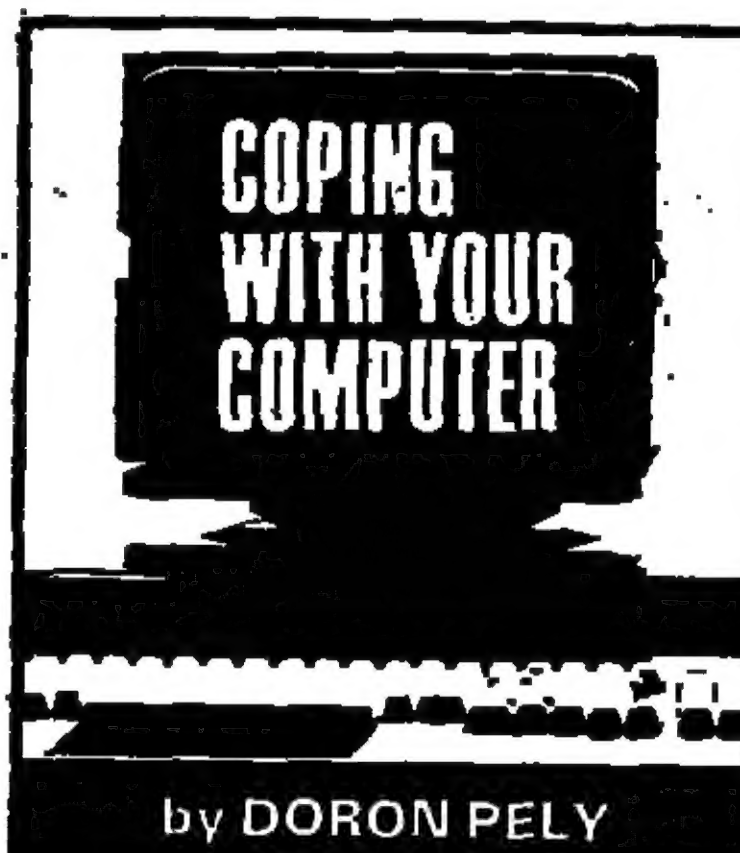
Prices of the new computers will start at NIS 4,500 for the basic model 30, and go up to NIS 15,000 for the model 80 floor-based computer. De-

livery to customers will start next month.

IBM's personal computers market share has been declining sharply in the last four years, with the company becoming as it were, a victim of its own power. The PC family of home and business micro-computers, launched six years ago, became the standard of the industry. Companies all over the world developed programs and electronic equipment to run and enhance the operations of IBM's products. Soon, computer manufacturers in the Far East started flooding the world with cheap IBM clones: PC look-alikes whose major components were copied, in some instances illegally, from IBM. With no research and development costs to defray, and by using less expensive components, IBM clones manufacturers put a dent in the giant company's sales of personal computers - a \$25 billion annual market worldwide.

This time around, IBM claims it has learned the lessons of the past and will be on guard to enforce proprietary rights and keep the new technologies used in the production of the Personal System/2 line under wraps. Still, IBM insists, the design of the new computers will allow other manufacturers to develop additional equipment and programs without compromising trade secrets.

## Around the periphery



If your computer does not come with a factory-equipped outlet for a joystick, you can buy an add-on unit, which plugs into the "mother board" - the main electronic circuit. Now you can attach a joystick and increase the scope of games and programmes.

If you feel the memory available on your computer is insufficient for the work you do, you can add a hard disk. Hard disks increase the memory storage space 60 million characters and more. But aside from physical memory increase, the hard disk absolves the user from the need

to keep an ever-growing library of floppy disks. If you try to operate a high-power programme, such as a data base, on a computer that is not equipped with a hard disk unit, you'll soon find a lot of valuable time is dedicated to selecting floppy disks and inserting them into the right disk drive slots. If money is not a problem, go for the hard disk. It will cost anywhere from NIS 800 to NIS 2,500 depending on make and size.

TO PRODUCE HIGH quality charts and drawings you need a graphic "card." Some computers come equipped with this attachment. Most IBM computers and clones are not factory equipped with a graphic card, but they have a vacant slot in the rear to attach one. There are, also, special display monitors for graphic programmes. Together, graphic equipment can cost more than \$1,000.

Printers are rapidly becoming a must for any home-computer user. If you want to produce high-quality copies of text, you'll have to shell out a lot of money for a letter quality printer. Reproduction of graphics will require a different printer or plotter. Top of the line laser printers, capable of producing good looking reproduction of both text and graphics, cost thousands of dollars. And, of course, there are electronic circuits (cards) that will enhance the print quality and cost less than a high quality printer.

Computers are excellent dust collectors. Left uncovered, they will soon look as if they just came back from a roll in the desert. A speck of dust in the wrong place can ruin a floppy disk along with the disk drive unit. Dust can wreck havoc inside the keyboard. It will shorten circuits and the machine will go on the blink. So it pays to keep the entire ensemble under some kind of wraps, preferably a plastic cover. Most famous computer makes have custom-made covers. And although it might appear as an unnecessary expenditure, buying one and using it will save you money and bother in the long run.

The Read/Write heads inside the disk drive collect a lot of dust and grime. There are special cleaning kits that, when used regularly, will extend the life of disk drives and floppy disks.

Add up all these goodies, and you'll discover that the computer price itself is only a small fraction of the amount needed to build up a solid and useful home computing base. Take that into account when you read the bargain basement ads in the papers. Your naked computer will require much additional expenditure before it becomes the computer of your dreams.

THE CONSORT OF MUSICKE - musical director: Anthony Roderic (Israel); Emma Kirby - soprano; Evelyn Tubb - soprano; Mary Nichols - alto; Andrew King - tenor; Rufus Müller - tenor; Alan Ewing - bass (Tel Aviv Museum, April 20). Matrigals by Schütz, Monteverdi, Ward and Henry Lawes.

THE Consort of Musicke provided us with two delightful hours of exquisite music. It concentrated on the Italian and English madrigal around 1600 and offered the fruits of one of the most beautiful and most exciting periods of musical history. Each one of the compositions is a marvel, a gem.

This group of seven has reached the pinnacle of musical accomplishment. They seem to have come to us

## Software for the age of pen and ink

# Back into the future

DIEHARDS who like the feel of pen in their hand and fear high technology but are nevertheless in need of a computer, will soon be able to enjoy both worlds.

Anatex, a software firm based in Paris, has begun marketing a computer programme that - amazingly - reads your handwriting and turns it into printed text on the computer screen. Called Personal Writer, the software will retail for \$1,300 abroad.

"Our market is anyone who is more comfortable with a pen than a keyboard," according to Xavier Maury, president of the company. A recent *Newsweek* article, reporting on the new programme, says it is designed to work with a Macintosh computer. An electronic writing slate and special ballpoint pen allows you to write on a sheet of paper placed on the slate.

The first time you use it, you must "train" the programme by hand-copying two pages of text from the accompanying manual. The Personal Writer programme analyses traits of the handwriting and records them in a file. One version of the programme requires you to print letters by hand, while the more sophisticated one allows you to write joined-up letters.

According to Anatex, the programme can recognize your handwriting even if it is somewhat different because it was done in a rush. The computer will ask you for clarification in such cases and store your responses. In addition, a 200,000-word English or French dictionary helps interpret the handwriting. If a letter is not clear, the programme can check various spellings and automatically insert the word that makes sense.

A COMPUTERIZED bank of tourist information has been established by Meir Atar, who is investing the \$1 million he earned from his bag concession at the Los Angeles Olympics a few years ago.

Atar says travel agents have only partial information which is often out of date. But a computerized data bank can constantly be updated to provide the latest information.

People who plan to travel to Israel can subscribe to the service and ask what credit cards are recognized here, what the weather will be like when they arrive, whether they can bring their dog along and what rabbinical supervision is offered in restaurants. Hotels, tour guides and the languages they speak, recommended itineraries and group offers



will also be included in the data bank.

Information can be obtained either by a computer disk that will be sent by Atar free to all Israel Government Tourist offices abroad, or by direct computer communication with Atar's data bank.

ISRAEL NATIONAL Semi-Conductors is in the final stages of developing a completely Israeli-made computer chip - the NS32532. The advanced chip, which aims at competing with the latest generation of microprocessors was announced at the recent convention in Israel of electronic engineers. A simultaneous announcement was made by the mother company, National Semi-Conductors, in Santa Clara, California.

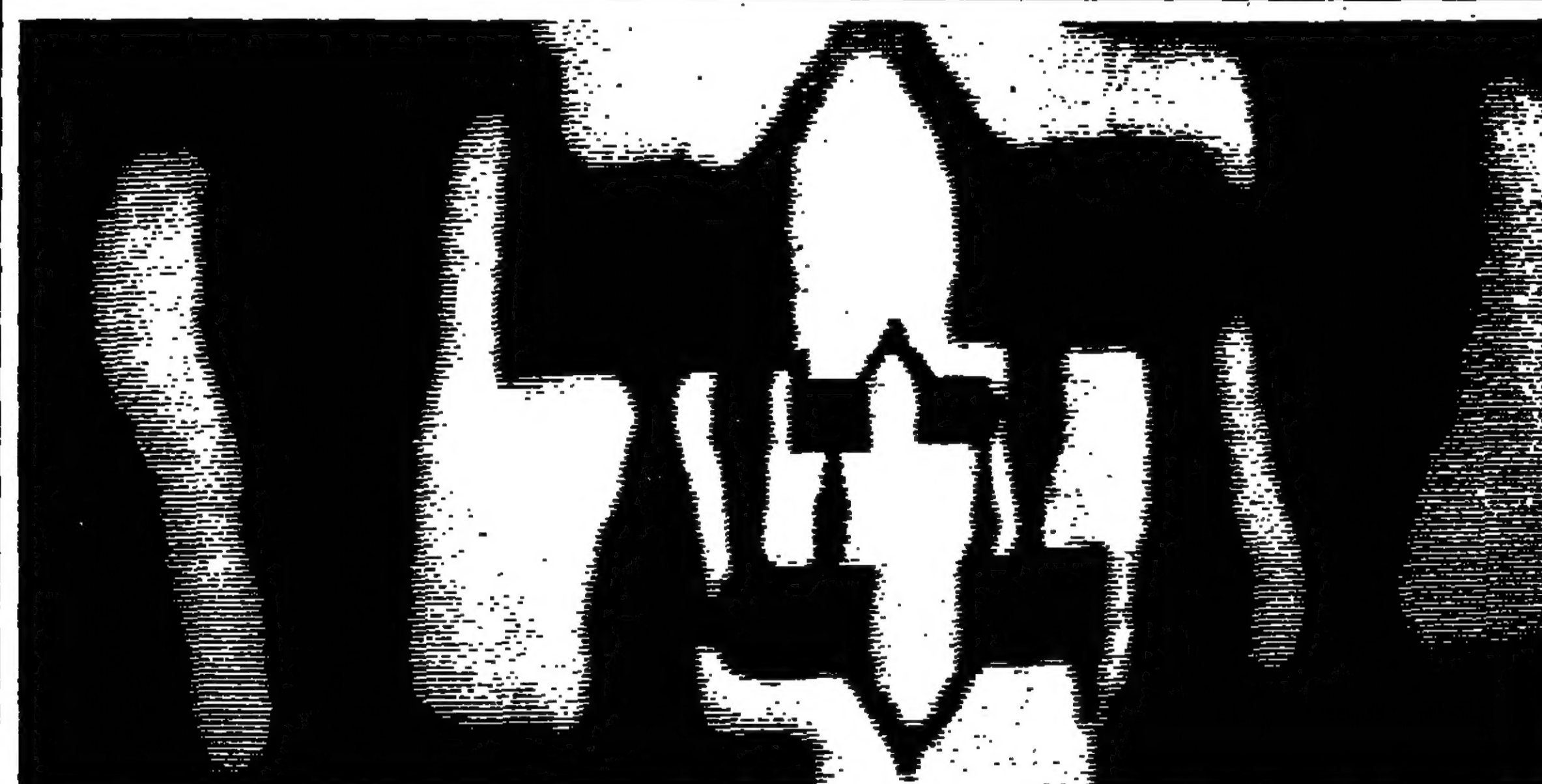
AN ISRAELI-made computerized

"table" that checks printed circuits has captured the interest of all people - of the electronic wizards of Japan. Developed here by IMS and Ziron, the table reportedly saves 90 percent of the time it usually takes to check the printed circuits. It checks them during manufacture, as well as when the product is completed.

FLIGHT SIMULATORS are for training pilots on the ground. But how do you train them if the aircraft hasn't even been manufactured yet? The National Aeronautics and Space Administration has found the answer.

The April issue of *Popular Science* reports that NASA now uses a computer to create realistic left-, centre- and right-window images. Until now, pilots using simulators saw only the straight-ahead windshield view. But lacking side views on the right and left did not give the pilot the real "feel" of his aircraft.

The computer can change the scenes in the three windows to make the system more realistic. When a jet, or even a spacecraft, is not yet ready for testing, the pilot feels as if he is already inside it when he sits in the simulator.



Two of the computer graphic works of Dov Lederberg. Above, a traditional design; below: 'Voyage into the Matza Interior.'



## Giving graphic expression to one man's hassidic insights

Aaron Leibel

WHEN DOV Lederberg sits down at his computer, he leaves behind the mundane world of business operations, calculations and even word processing. For with Lederberg at the controls, he and his IBM PC move into the field of computer art in the service of the Almighty.

The 45-year-old artist began his career making experimental films in his native America in the early 1960s. In 1965, he "dropped out" to study at Lubavitch seminaries in the U.S. and in Israel. He returned to movie making in 1970 as an independent, primarily making educational and documentary films for Israel TV.

But it was while teaching at an art college in Yeroham five years ago that he "started to realise the potential of using computers as an art form, especially for expressing hassidic insights."

Today, as owner of the one-man business, Lamed Video and Computer Productions, he devotes most of his time to this new art form. By using a graphics programme, he produces paintings, wall hangings and video tapes, most with religious overtones. "God comes through the computer," Lederberg explains, as he, an artist and a Hassid, tries to demonstrate the Creator's work through his art.

According to midrashic sources the world was created by God's use of the actual letters of words, Lederberg explains. What he describes as "his first major work," is a two-hour video on that subject entitled *The Sacred Letters - Video Meditation on the Secrets of the Hebrew Alphabet*, which he completed in 1984.

His pictures, *B'reshit* (Genesis) and *Mizrah* (East), are "computer paintings" fired by the same concepts. The idea for the latter work has its origins in the traditional world of the Diaspora. At one time, all Jewish homes, he said, had a "Mizrah" on the appropriate wall of the house to show the inhabitants in which direction to pray, facing Jerusalem.

Lederberg's painting also began with the Hebrew word "Mizrah." Behind it he created the city of Jerusalem on his computer. The work is intended to symbolize the coming of the Messiah. To produce his works, Lederberg uses a "light pen," with which he draws electronically on a board, with the results reproduced on the computer screen. Or he can use the special instrument to draw directly on

the screen. Using the electronic method allows a unique melding of colours, Lederberg said. The subtlety of colours would be more difficult to attain by using the traditional paint-and-brush method. "I don't think I could have achieved what I have in any other medium," he concluded.

Lederberg's works have been exhibited in galleries and museums all over Israel and in the United States. Last year, he had three one-man exhibitions.

Fittingly, during this Pessah holiday season, his *Voyage into the Matza Interior* and other works were screened at Jerusalem's Cinematheque.

## THE DUNERA INTERNEES

Benzion Patkin



Early in July 1940, 2542 internees, mostly Jewish escapees from Hitler's Europe, were sent to Australia on the Dunera. On the voyage they were systematically robbed and beaten by their British guards and kept in appalling conditions, and sent to another inhospitable exile. That voyage of the "hellship" is one of the most disgraceful and least-known blemishes on Britain's war record. Published by Cassell, Australia, hardcover, 184 pages including 18 illustrations. PRICE: NIS 17.50

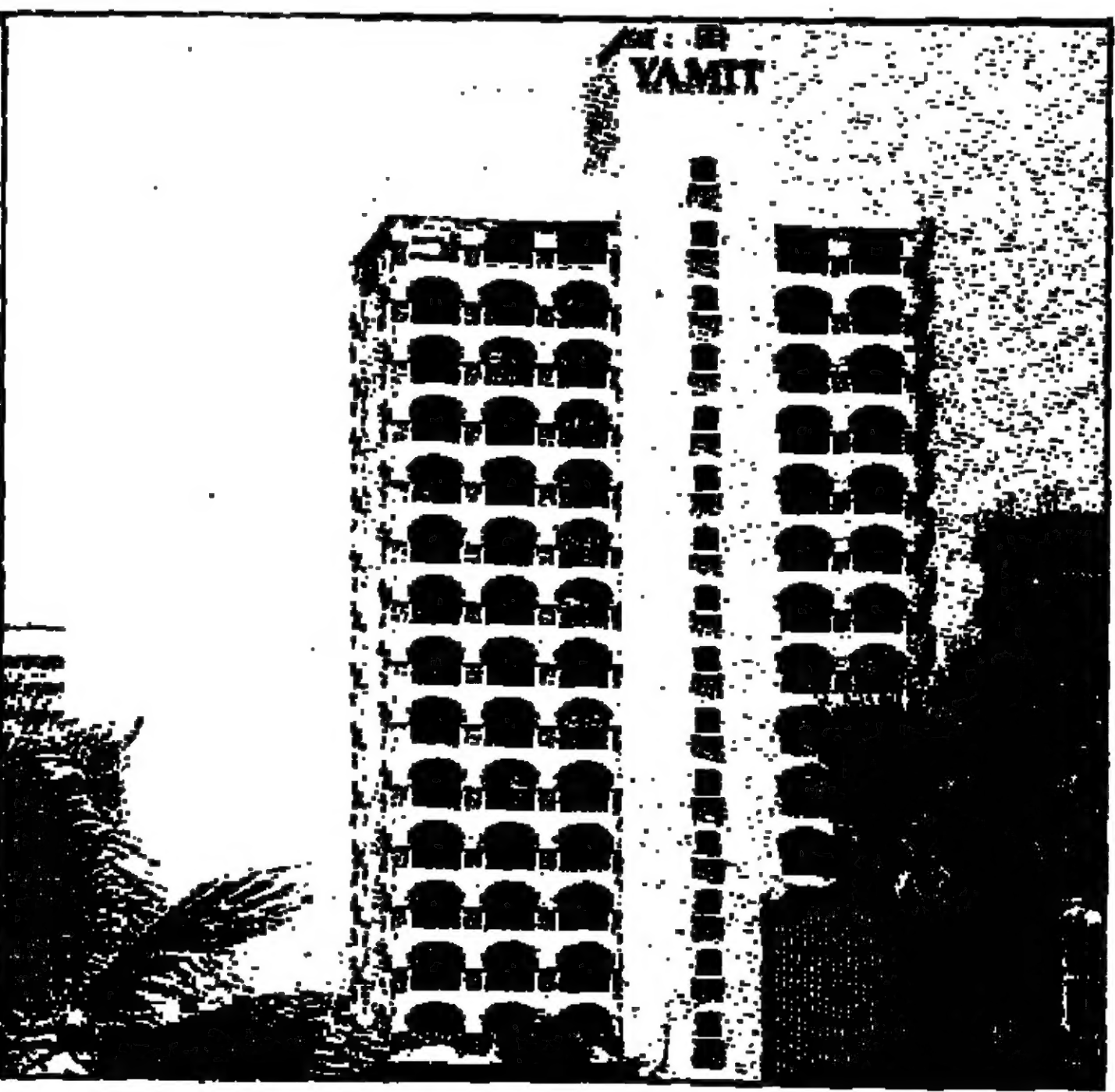
To: BOOKS, The Jerusalem Post, POB 81, Jerusalem 91000  
Please send me THE DUNERA INTERNEES. I enclose a cheque for NIS 17.50.  
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## Heights of perfection



directly from the courts of princes and dukes whose ears are those of the most discriminating connoisseurs.

The Consort's voices blend into a truly intoxicating euphony. Yet even in the most complex polyphonic texture each one of them can be easily followed along its track. Balance and togetherness are perfect, and yet each singer conveyed his own, personal expressiveness.

The execution of embellishments, one of the characteristic features of this music, is superb. The "Consort" glide through virtuosic passages with astonishing ease. Enunciation was perfect. What else can one expect of human musicians? This is not only a revival of the glorious music of the past, but also living art, elevated to the heights of beauty and perfection.

BENJAMIN BAR-AM







# Independence for the elderly

A growing number of facilities are offering retirees a chance to live their own lives, with a safety net of essential medical and social services, but it all comes at a steep price.

By DAVID ROSENBERG  
Jerusalem Post Reporter

With a stream of residents passing through carrying shopping bags and tennis rackets, rock music drifting out from the reception desk and a bulletin board covered with announcements for activities and trips, the lobby of Golden Tower could easily pass for a dormitory on a university campus.

But, as its name suggests, most of its residents haven't seen the inside of a lecture hall in 50 or more years. They have bought a place in an innovative project that enables elderly people to live an independent life with a built-in safety net of medical and social services.

Golden Tower, which is located in Jerusalem's Sha'arei Hessed section and is operated jointly by Bank Tefahot and Solel Boneh, isn't the only such project in Israel. A non-profit group, formed under the sponsorship of the Association of Americans and Canadians in Israel, operates the Nofim project in Jerusalem's Kiryat Yovel neighbourhood, while Clal Ltd. owns and operates Mediterranean Towers in Bat Yam.

Such projects, a cross between American condominiums for the elderly of the kind that dot the Florida coast and a traditional old-age home, did not exist in Israel a few years ago. But now, both Clal and Golden Tower are talking about building them all over Israel.

The exact arrangements in these projects vary, but the basic philosophy is the same: residents put down a sum of money for a flat and pay a monthly maintenance fee, for which they receive an array of medical and social services. That includes 24-hour security and nursing, cleaning services, regular visits by doctors, limited on-site shopping, cafeterias, and social activities. Although none do now, most will eventually include small hospitals for residents with temporary illnesses or disabilities. The guiding principle is that the services are there should residents want them, but they are encouraged to make their own lives.

"First, the residents want to know

in the back of their heads that there will be a (hospital) bed in case they need it. Second of all, they don't want to see it," says Golden Tower's director, Shlomo Wallach.

While Golden Tower and its sister projects address the needs of a certain part of the elderly population, they by no means offer a panacea for the often demanding social and medical needs of older people. The criteria for getting in are relatively difficult, and a good portion of the over-65 population these facilities are targeted at could never get in. Residents must be relatively independent and well-behaved.



A Golden Tower flat.

At Golden Tower an admission committee, which includes Wallach, a physician, the resident nurse and a social worker, screens applicants for age and health. Sixty is the youngest an applicant can be, and it is unlikely anyone over 85 would pass muster. Wallach says. At Mediterranean Towers, potential residents are interviewed by a doctor and social worker, who have no fixed requirements for approving applicants except a minimum age of 55. The admissions committee only meets if the doctor and social worker don't agree on an applicant.

Because none of these projects have facilities to deal with the chronically sick, applicants cannot be seriously handicapped. "Everybody is sick at this age, but the question is how sick," says Wallach. The health requirements also enable these facilities to keep their costs down, as maintaining a medical staff is usually the biggest single cost in operating traditional old-age homes that take all comers.

Having passed the medical and social criteria to get in, the upfront costs of such facilities are in the tens-of-thousands of dollars, and only in the case of Golden Towers can the cost be looked upon as an investment.

Golden Towers allows residents to buy their flats, starting as low as

\$79,000 for 11/2 rooms and going up to \$170,000 for a three-room penthouse. That entitles the owner or his family to resell the flat anytime, so long as the buyer meets the approval of the admissions committee. Since January, the prices on flats—at least according to Golden Tower's official list—have increased about \$4,000 across-the-board although that may represent rising costs rather than rising demand. Wallach says only 60 per cent of its 93 flats are occupied, compared with 50 per cent in January.

At Nofim, the 153 flats are offered in an arrangement similar to key

continue to lose its value against foreign currencies.

Offer says the entrance fee offers no natural advantages and is basically designed for people who can't afford the membership fee. But, he notes, a resident coming in in good health at age 55 could end up getting a very good deal. "That's rent for all his life, which could be 30 years."

Well, not entirely. Monthly maintenance fees at Mediterranean Towers range from \$230 to \$450, depending on the size of the flat, about the same as at Nofim. At Golden Tower, residents pay a flat \$150 a month for services.

Golden Tower is poised to being construction on a second and a bigger project in Kiryat Yovel, which Wallach promises will have bigger and better facilities than the Sha'arei Hessed project. It will also be less expensive, as it will be built on Israel Lands Administration property rather than on a private plot. Wallach says the Kiryat Yovel project will reflect some of the things the management has learned from Golden Tower, which was not originally designed as senior citizens' housing. The flats will be bigger, lighter, and will incorporate many small changes, such as better-designed light switches. It will have 150 flats plus a 36-bed medical facility, which it will share with Sha'arei Hessed. Residents with serious medical problems are sent to a facility in Motza for the time being.

Mediterranean Towers is meanwhile building a second tower to its Bat Yam facility. It will add 150 flats and include a 60-room nursing facility, so that residents with medical problems that require overnight stays no longer have to go to Assuta Hospital. Nofim, while not planning any more flats, will be adding a 12-bed nursing facility this month.

Needless to say, the fact that admission to such places as Golden and Mediterranean Towers and Nofim are limited to those who are financially and physically healthy means that they have few of the social problems more traditional nursing homes face. Indeed, if a resident, as often happens, does develop the kind of problems that would have prevented him or her from gaining admission in the first place, these facilities insist he leave, although Mediterranean Tower's package, for example, includes a guarantee of a place in a nursing home at a below-market price.

In effect, for an applicant they represent a gamble: a long and relatively illness-free retirement can make such facilities an ideal alternative. Anything less than that will diminish their value both as an expense and as a living environment.

All these dollar-linked refunds will lose their luster should the dollar

## NEIGHBOURHOODS/Bradley Burston

"This is not just another nice place to live," remarks a veteran U.S. immigrant who moved to Omer after spending several years in a scruffy section of neighbouring Beersheba. "This is the American Dream."

Once a struggling, scandal-ridden border settlement, the manicured bedroom suburb called Omer has come to embody one of Israel's more successful stabs at an accessible version of the good life. The broad, tree-lined streets, the reputation for quality schools and day-care facilities, the close proximity to work places, and the wide range of leisure-time outlets have proven a combination successful enough to spawn a number of nearby imitators, a development that has helped to add affordability to Omer's long list of assets.

**HISTORY:** Omer was founded in 1949 as a kibbutz, the intended home for members of the Palmach's Negev Brigade discharged after the War of Independence. But the fledgling settlement foundered almost immediately, and was reorganized in the early 1950s as a moshav for new immigrants.

By all accounts, life on Moshav Omer was a hard-scrabble affair, with good water source and electricity non-existent. One old-timer recalls that once each week, the community's only washing machine was surreptitiously connected to the electric line supplying the security fence on the Jordanian border, and remained there until the moshav's laundry was done.

Then, a few years after the moshav's founding, police arrested several members on suspicion of having sold rifles and other arms to Jordanian Arabs.

In the end, the members involved in the alleged smuggling plot left the moshav, and Omer underwent yet another metamorphosis, emerging as a *Yishuv Kfari* (roughly, a "country town"), a loosely bound association of owners of private homes.

The resulting transformation, from collective settlement to subdivision, was shepherded by former Omer council head Bezalel Gaber. Gaber worked closely with Rascos in formulating plans for what was to become a successful series of tract-type homes built during the last two decades.

Alongside the tract housing, lots were sold to persons interested in building their own homes, and before long Omer's dominant architectural style had passed from Moshav provincial to Southern California eclectic.

Until the present decade, the community's uniqueness in the Beersheba area, coupled with limitations on new construction on Omer's outskirts, kept real estate values even for the oldest properties at a level unknown anywhere else in the Negev. But, with the Negev's economy in recession and as hundreds of single-family dwellings have sprouted both in Omer and in adjacent communities, villas here have declined to the price levels of modest apartments in Tel Aviv or Jerusalem.

**ENVIRONMENT:** Omer is situ-

## Omer: From moshav to pricey suburb

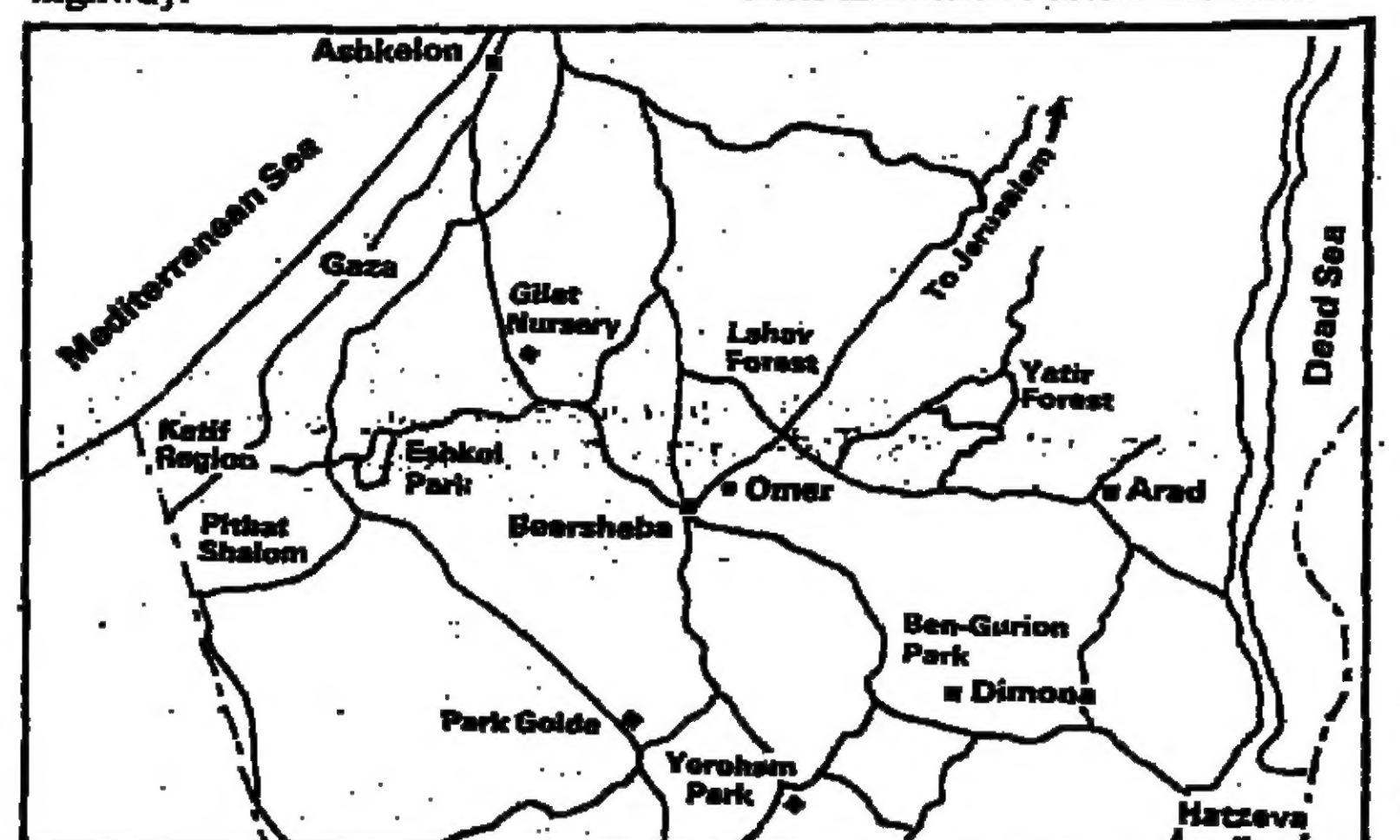
ated on the Hebron Road (Highway 60), a 10 minute drive to the northeast of Beersheba. The agricultural origins of the community are still evident in the moshav farms operating on Rehov Margalit in the northern section and in the large, still collectively-owned vineyard to the east. Beyond the vineyard lies the Beduin township of Tel Sheva, and close to the perimeter fence on Omer's isolated northern border, other Beduin have erected a dilapidated, *de facto* mini-township that seems to grow larger and closer by the year.

Though relations between Omer, which has three resident Beduin families, and its Beduin neighbours are generally good, an element of the philosophy of "respect them, but suspect them" can be felt on both sides.

Overlooking the vineyard, a spate of new house construction has brought the population of Omer to well over 1,000 families. Also on the outskirts of the community is a project just underway to build retirement housing for parents of Omer residents. The retirement neighbourhood borders the site of a huge park scheduled to serve the entire Beersheba area in the next decade.

But smaller parks already abound in every corner of Omer, as do green belts, playgrounds and pedestrian walkways sheltered from traffic.

Though three bus lines serve Omer with frequent and fairly convenient service to and from Beersheba, the temptingly short, signal-free drive to such major employers as Soroka Hospital, Ben-Gurion University and the Negev's major chemical and mineral-mining industries causes a daily, 8:00 a.m. traffic tie-up on shady, well-landscaped Rehov Tamar. Omer's only exit to the highway.



Despite its reputation as something of an Anglo-Saxon enclave, Omer's population profile is heterogeneous and generally Israeli in orientation.

**FACILITIES:** Omer's central shopping square reflects the varied tastes of its population—from a traditional corner grocery to a modern supermarket. Other specialty shops include a pricey but tasteful gift shop, a boutique, a superb pastry shop, a bicycle repair and hardware store and two greengrocers who offer home delivery, as does the supermarket.

To help pay for all of this, a branch of Bank Hapoalim is included.

Thrifty residents can also avail themselves of the Beersheba Hyperkol and Hyperco-op stores, located just down the highway.

Alongside the central shopping area are two of Omer's most attractive features, the Cultural House (the Negev's premier movie theatre) and a swimming-pool/sauna/weight room/garden complex that puts many a five-star hotel to shame.

In the religious sphere, although Sephardi and Ashkenazi (Young Israel) congregations have strong representation, their combined memberships do not approach that of Omer's largest synagogue, affiliated to the Masorti (Conservative) Movement.

**HOUSING:** As recently as 1984, finding any house in Omer for under \$100,000 was all but out of the question. Even run-down 20-year-old tract homes commanded lofty sums due to constant demand and carefully limited supply. But things have changed considerably, and houses that sold for \$120,000 four years ago can now be had for as little as \$75,000-\$80,000.

Another approach, especially popular in an era of low construction costs, is the build-your-own-home scheme. The standard half-dunum Omer lot now costs around \$37,000, and some residents have managed to move in to a finished structure for just over \$60,000.

The Rascos "Bait Gedel" series (dubbed "Lego houses" by local wags) are an especially good buy, realtors say. Made for expansion, they are low-priced and fairly new.

Prospective buyers are cautioned to inspect older Rascos houses carefully. Termites are a prevalent problem, as is the fact that the houses were built without cement foundations and tend to settle and sink.

## DEVELOPMENTS/Miriam Shenkar

### Netanya to get mall

The Canion Hasharon, now in its sixth month of construction, should be completed and open to the public by December 1988, Alfred Acrob, who is overseeing the project for Al Kanit Co., told a press conference yesterday.

The \$36 million centre being constructed on an 18-dunum tract straddling the Tel Aviv-Haifa highway in Netanya will contain 40,000 square metres of space. Its chief attractions will be a 4,000 square-metre Hamashbir Lazarchan department store, 1,600-square-metre Co-Op super-market and 400 square-metre Superpharm. There will also be a host of restaurants and smaller shops, including 15 food outlets, and movie theatres.

Acrob said the Canion Hasharon, one of a rapidly growing list of enclosed shopping malls modelled after the successful Canion Ramat Gan, is aimed primarily at the 30,000 residents of Netanya, although Acrob added that its proximity to the Tel Aviv-Haifa highway should lure shoppers from a wider area.

The three-storey structure, where leases are going for \$30 a square metre per annum or the equivalent of 7 per cent of the store's turnover, will have parking for 500 cars.

**TWO COUNTRY CLUBS** will soon be built in the Tel Aviv area. One will cover a 17-dunum plot in Ramat Aviv Gimmel, near the Elram Towers neighbourhood and Rehov Recanati, while a smaller club will be located on 10 dunams in Shikun Lamed, near Buri and Levi Eshkol street.

A group of investors, including Mickey Berkovitz, Alter Zvi & Sons Ltd. and Nissim Mizrahi, has paid the city about \$2.5 million to \$3m. plus \$200,000 annually over 49 years on the Ramat Aviv plot.

For the Shikun Lamed plot, P. Belkin and the Inbar Financial Services Co. paid somewhere around

struction Ltd., is expected to be completed in two years.

Architect Moti Ben-Horim, who designed the first tower, plans a swimming pool and health club for the second tower. Prices are expected to be at \$150,000 for three rooms.

**OPPENHEIMER SWEETS LTD.**, the Jerusalem-based confectioners got a sweet deal from Elscint Ltd., which sold it a 5,000-square-metre manufacturing facility in the capital's Atarot section for a fraction of the price it paid for it.

Oppenheimer reportedly paid about \$200 a square metre, or a total of \$1 million. Elscint is said to have paid to Jerusalem developer Matityahu Lifschitz \$4m. for the plant a few years ago, or \$800 a square metre. Oppenheimer is currently leasing its 1,500 square metre Givat Shaul facility from the Jerusalem Economic Corp. for \$3.50 a square metre.

Oppenheimer expects to put the big increase in manufacturing space to good use, expanding its product line to include milk chocolates destined for export markets.

**CONSTRUCTION SOON** begins on a two-building, 64-flat project in Eilat that its developers, Ben Yakar Gat Co., say will be the first real residential project of its size undertaken in the city in seven years.

The Rehov Los Angeles project, which is being represented by Anglo Saxon Realty Co.'s Eilat office, will have three-room 80-square-metre flats priced at \$45,000 and four-room units of 100 square metres for \$60,000. Eight penthouse flats of five rooms each have not been priced yet.

Another residential project, aimed at investors rather than full-time residents, the Panorama Eilat, developed by Shivan Ltd. and Horman Developers Ltd., is now completely sold. Located in the Sofit Tahit area of Eilat near the ocean and some of the hotels, Panorama Eilat includes 108 apartments, a swimming pool and a large entrance lobby. Each apartment is approximately 55 square metres containing one bedroom, a living room, bath and kitchen. The price—\$50,000 a unit.

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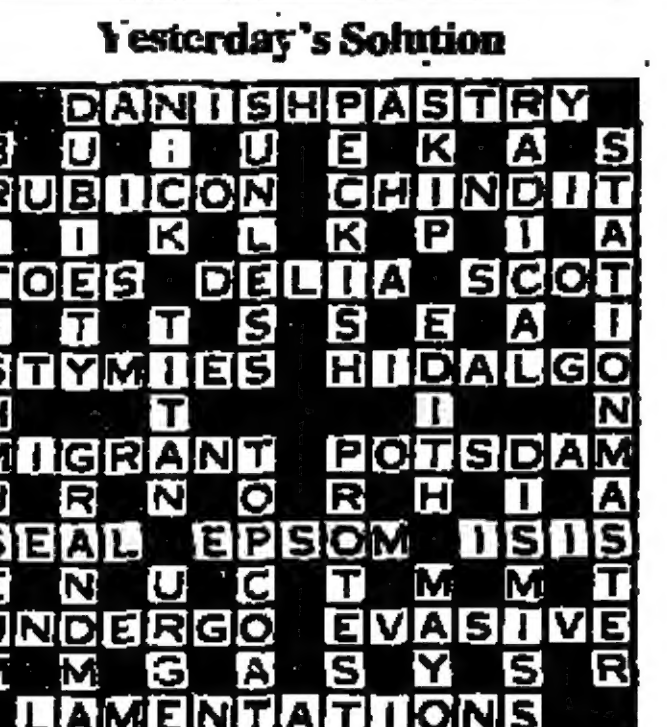
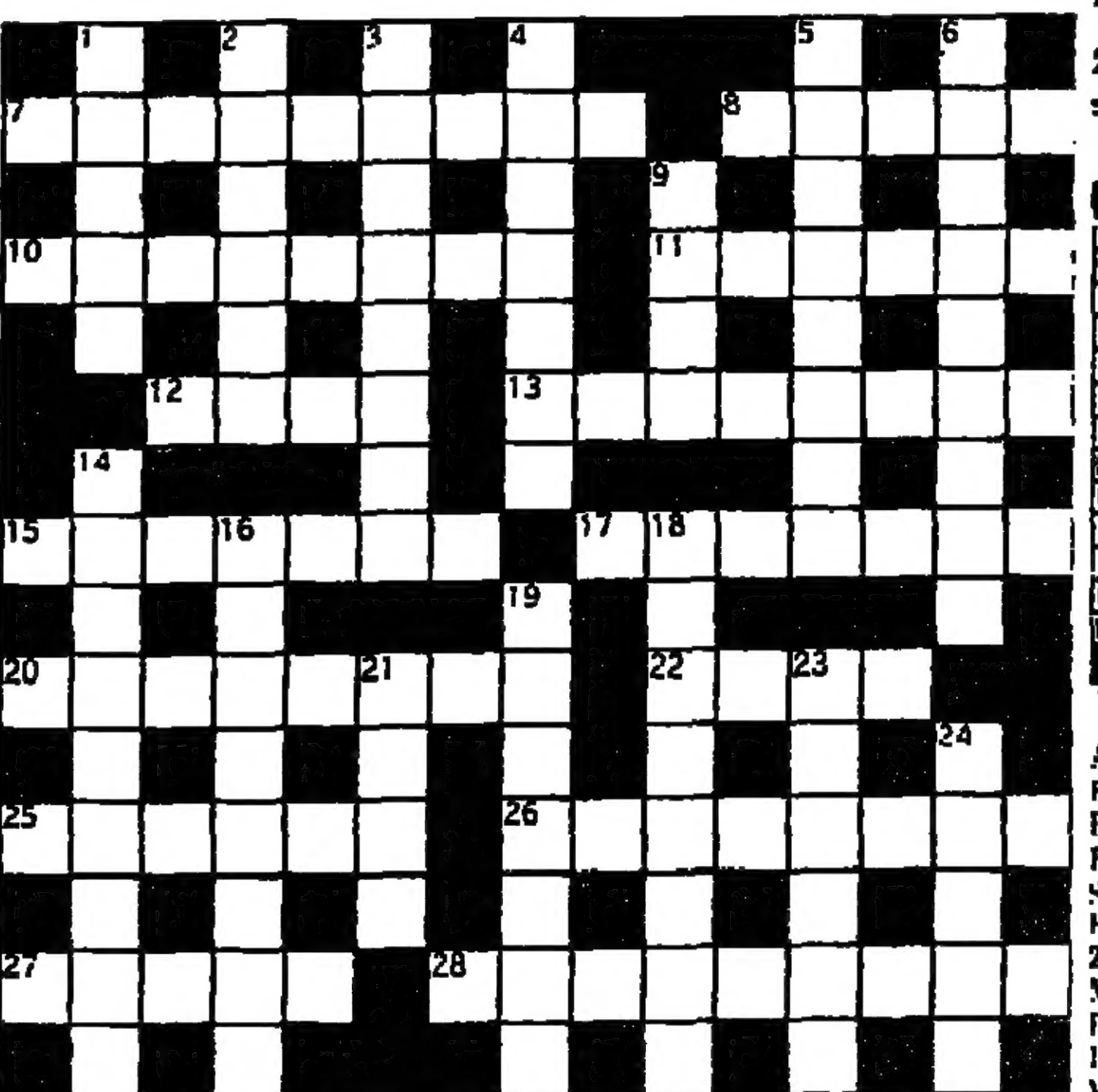
## CROSSWORD

### ACROSS

- 7 Check furs, treat splits (9)
- 8 Make a hole in some material (5)
- 10 He rates fools, getting endlessly irritated (8)
- 11 Sum for which a doctor's been let in by relation (6)
- 12 This may well cause the viewer great irritation (4)
- 13 Sense there's an agreement among rowing men (8)
- 15 Seaside accommodation giving rise to complaint (7)
- 17 Happy inside (7)

### DOWN

- 20 Go back to help big family getting abuse (8)
- 22 Discourage rapid movement (4)
- 25 Air force (6)
- 26 Irrationality of French article concerning a child (8)
- 27 Expert? That's a joke! (5)
- 28 Supporters who are soft with the workers (9)
- 1 Sue newspapermen (5)
- 2 Maintain a lock-up (6)
- 3 People responsible for actors' clothing and furniture (8)
- 4 Looked round about tea-time, but wasn't offered anything to eat (7)
- 5 He's a bad lot—or isn't as bad as he's made out (8)
- 6 Drawing back a little way, and shy about it (9)
- 9 The head chef prepares this (4)
- 14 Not a great work of art—though it could be (9)
- 16 ACCESS taken here! (8)
- 18 A doubter can be quite hard to influence (8)
- 19 Orderly academicians with gun in hold up (7)
- 21 An island shows some coastal erosion always (4)
- 23 Thin as a result of using a 1 down (6)
- 24 Dressed for spring (5)



### QUICK SOLUTION

ACROSS 1 Chukka 4 Servant, 7 Race-track, 9 Chap, 10 Kiwi, 11 Paint, 13 Sandal, 14 Grotto, 15 Parted, 17 Nihil, 19 Sedan, 20 Show, 22 Skip, 23 Favourite, 24 Rider, 25 Winkle, DOWN 1 Clocks, 2 Knap, 3 Aerial, 4 Strong, 5 Rock, 6 Memo, 7 Backdrop, 8 Kiltlake, 11 Pated, 12 Tract, 15 Pastor, 16 Devour, 17 Sorrow, 19 Topple, 21 Wand, 22 Stun.

### QUICK CROSSWORD

#### ACROSS

- 11 Look hard
- 4 Luggage
- 10 Passage
- 11 Similar
- 12 Go in
- 13 Savoury rice dish

#### DOWN

- 2 Characteristic
- 3 Put b.
- 5 Collier
- 6 Letter
- 7 Frequent
- 8 Grim

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## Arafat's old bloody flag

UNABLE or unwilling to join King Hussein in a genuine political accord, Yasser Arafat has now reversed himself and joined with his former rivals, George Habash and Nayef Hawatmeh. To cheering delegates of the Palestine National Council meeting in Algiers, Arafat again heralded "armed struggle" against Israel as the PLO's prevailing motto.

For Arafat this represents a victory of sorts. Weakened by the Lebanese war, beset by rival factions, deprived of his former bases in Beirut and wholly alienated from Syria, the PLO leader for the last four years maneuvered largely to survive. His 1985 agreement with King Hussein was, as is now obvious, part of such a survival strategy.

A rapprochement with Jordan offered some potentially tangible benefits. It would permit reestablishment of an official PLO presence in Amman at a time when the organization, driven from Lebanon, was forced to quarter itself in Tunis and other distant parts.

Such a PLO presence would also facilitate communication with operatives in the West Bank and Gaza, though its activities inside Jordan would be closely monitored and restricted.

The price was to humour King Hussein and his desire to start a political process to loosen Israel's grip on the territories.

For Hussein, the danger of renewed PLO subversion in Jordan was balanced by the prospects of gaining PLO sanction for his scheme to launch a negotiation process. But that sanction remained elusive, as Arafat had to watch his flanks, and Hussein, for his part had to stop short of arousing Syria, let alone scrapping Israeli interest. The PLO left Amman as quickly as it had come.

Thus, even before the announcement in Algiers, the "Amman accord" was effectively dead.

Last night, Jordan announced that the PNC decisions will not block efforts to get negotiations started under the umbrella of an international conference. This view has also been expressed by Foreign Minister Shimon Peres.

How this can be accomplished remains to be seen. For the moment, both King Hussein and Mr. Peres are similarly positioned — each is opposed by an erstwhile partner, Arafat in the one case, Prime Minister Shamir in the other.

True, Jordan has in recent months strengthened its activities and supporters in the West Bank. It hopes that the people of the West Bank will come to realize more and more that the PLO's "military" strategy has never offered them a solution and will never be able to do so. The Algiers conference can only emphasize this point. But if the point is to be acted upon, Palestinian representatives will have to do so, joining Jordan in a process of negotiation with Israel.

Arafat is intent on preventing this. Negotiations, if at all, the PNC has signalled, can only be on its terms. Yet these are the terms which neither Jordan nor Israel can accept.

Thus what looms ahead are prospects for increased violence, accompanied, presumably, by a continuing effort by Jordan and at least half the Israeli government to pursue the negotiation option.

The path of reason would dictate that each act of violence serve as a spur for getting negotiations started. But linked as they are in an implicit unholy pact, the nay sayers in Israel and the nay sayers in Algiers, can exploit violence to assure continuing deadlock.

Much will presumably depend on the willingness of the U.S. to bear down on behalf of the negotiation option. Certainly if the PLO or the Palestinians it purports to represent, do not understand, the U.S. does understand, that if violence is again to become the currency of dialogue, Israel will not fail for eloquence. That realization alone should link Israel, the U.S., Jordan, and sensible representatives of the Palestinians in concerted effort.

## JORDAN

(Continued from Page One)

Minister Shamir would not be "very deep" if the Soviet Union restored diplomatic relations with Israel and allowed more Soviet Jews to emigrate.

The Jordanians said they would not oppose an improvement in relations between Moscow and Jerusalem — including the formal resumption of diplomatic ties — if that would lead to real progress in the peace process and the convening of an international conference. "We don't mind this," a Jordanian policymaker said, confirming that this position has been conveyed to the Soviets.

But Jordanian officials said the Americans were continuing to express serious reservations about an international meeting. The Jordanians want such a conference to include the five permanent members of the UN Security Council, Jordan, Israel, Syria and Lebanon. The PLO, according to the Jordanians, would be represented in the Jordanian delegation.

Western diplomatic sources in Amman confirmed that the U.S. was still reluctant to flatter itself to an international meeting unless all the ground rules were firmly agreed upon in advance. The Americans wanted any international conference to lead quickly to direct negotiations they said, adding that the U.S. did not want any bilateral agreements reached during subcommittee negotiations to be subject to any veto power by other participants.

The Jordanians said the Reagan administration was not yet convinced that the Soviet Union was prepared to play a constructive role. But unlike Washington, Jordan was relatively satisfied by the Soviet stance.

During a visit to Washington earlier this month by Jordanian Prime Minister Zaid Rifai and Foreign Minister Tahir el-Masri, Shultz and other administration officials indicated a readiness in principle to work towards an international conference. But the Jordanians clearly returned home disappointed.

The Americans are too cautious, "one senior Jordanian official said. "They don't want the Soviets to play a significant role." They said that King Hussein would have accepted an invitation to visit Washington if the U.S. position on an international conference had

been more to Jordan's liking. The king, who has just undergone what was described as minor ear surgery in London, is due back in Amman in the coming days.

Syria is the major reason why the Jordanians retain any hope at all for an international conference. They believe that President Hafez Assad, for his own reasons, has decided to moderate his position.

Asked why the Damascus regime was more prepared now to participate in the peace process, a Jordanian official cited several factors which apparently have had an effect on Syria.

Among them were the difficulties resulting from Syria's escalated involvement in Lebanon, and Iran's apparent refusal to help the Syrians consolidate their positions there; the very serious deterioration of the Syrian economy; the fact that the continuing Iran-Iraq war has drained Arab financial resources that might have been earmarked for Syria; and the sharp European and American economic and diplomatic sanctions imposed on Syria last year after it was implicated in several terrorist incidents.

"The Syrians are not happy about all of this isolation," a Jordanian official said.

In addition, the Soviet Union has clearly been angry at Syria for refusing to support a rapprochement among all the various PLO factions. The Soviets would also like Assad to stop feuding with Arafat.

Jordanian officials said they were encouraged by the recent informal consultations on an international conference at the UN. They are hoping that the UN secretary-general, after additional discussions among the parties and perhaps a visit to the area, will issue formal invitations to an international conference.

The invitations, according to Jordanian officials, will note that the conference will be based on UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. The issue of exact Palestinian representation would then become "an Arab problem," a Jordanian official said.

Clearly the Jordanians are still hoping that the PLO will accept these resolutions and then agree to join a Jordanian delegation. It was the PLO's refusal to accept these

## Worrisome questions raised by the Nafsu case Secrecy to be decried

Allan E. Shapiro

THE APPEAL of former lieutenant Izat Nafsu, convicted of espionage, treason and other security offences, raises issues far beyond the questions of the effect of illegally obtained evidence that will be argued before the Supreme Court. Evidently, the committee chaired by former army intelligence chief Aharon Yariv, which was appointed in the wake of the Ashkelon bus Shin Bet affair, restricted itself to a rather narrow range of problems. Otherwise, it is impossible to understand the reported demand of the Shin Bet that a public body conduct an overall review of the service's working procedures and investigation techniques, as a substitute to a court examination of the claims of illegal conduct on the part of the Shin Bet raised in the Nafsu appeal.

The Yariv committee apparently did not undertake such an overall review, this despite widespread popular expectation. In the High Court decision involving the legality of the presidential pardons to the Shin Bet officials involved in the Bus No. 300 affair, even the deputy president of the High Court, Justice Miriam Ben-Porat, the most sympathetic of the judicial panel to the claim that sensitive security services must, of necessity, operate in a grey area of quasi-legality, declared that the facts revealed in that case should light a red light with regard to Shin Bet operating methods. If there is need for a new public body to examine Shin Bet procedures, as the Shin Bet itself reportedly asserts, this can only mean that the warning light has produced, till now, only a limited reaction.

Nor is there basis for expectation that the change in the director of the Shin Bet, as a result of the resignation of Avraham Shalom, would or could bring about a review of the agency's operations. This might have been the case, had the new director been from outside the agency, without a commitment to the standard procedures of the Shin Bet. Although the identity of the new incumbent director is secret, it is known that his past makes him as much an interested party in defending and preserving the status quo within the agency as was his deposed predecessor.

### READERS' LETTERS

#### THE ROOT OF ISRAEL'S TROUBLES

To the Editor of The Jerusalem Post  
Sir, — Avi Temkin, in his article of March 20 "Finance and fraud" claims that "swindle and fraud are endemic to capitalism and that 'today's headlines about investigations and accusations are firmly rooted in economic conditions which existed during the period from 1979 to 1983 or 1984' — implicitly accusing the Likud government for such a state of affairs."

In reality, the root of Israel's troubles is socialism, with its outdated, unrealistic, ambiguous dogmas, concepts and principles that created a system which is to blame for the creation of a parasitic society.

The introduction of the austerity regime with rationing and controls in the first years of the state was an incentive to cheating. Our Marxist-inspired leaders scorned private initiative, putting the government, the

trade unions and even the Jewish Agency into business with negative results. These included an inadequate control system, the appointment of managers on the basis of political affiliations and not personal qualifications. The economic unsoundness of many enterprises transformed them into welfare institutions with donations to the party, and a shower of benefits to workers in the form of overtime without work, fictitious premiums, professional literature for non-professionals, advance-training funds for jaunts abroad, etc.

The absurdly high tax rates and the muddled economic policy, with a jungle of privileges and exemptions, (initiated by labour) turned the best citizens into idlers and the Israel nation into a bunch of crooks.

DR. J. WILCEK  
Haifa.

WHILE the Nafsu appeal does not appear to involve allegations of tampering with evidence, of the sort revealed in the Ashkelon bus cover-up, still the revelations into the latter affair by the attorney-general's committee, headed by his deputy, Yehudit Karp, should have been sufficient to justify further probing. Yossi Ginosar, the Karp committee report notes (page 36), claimed that "there was no normative deviance in the denial or concealment of facts before the Zorea commission from previous cases."

Perhaps it wasn't the business of the Karp committee, limited to the Ashkelon bus hijacking as it was, to ask the obvious question: what other cases? But it was certainly the business of some public body, and failing that, of the public and the press.

However, this statement, by a responsible Shin Bet official, appears to have been passed over, with little more than the added note that only Ginosar made such a claim, even though the Karp committee report notes the lack of cooperation of senior Shin Bet officials with the police investigation, on which Karp Committee report was based.

A further question, not involved in the Nafsu appeal, is why Nafsu's arrest, trial, conviction and punishment was kept a secret for more than six years. What possible security need could possibly justify such a Star Chamber procedure? In 1966, the editors of the sensationalist weekly, *But*, were similarly arrested, tried and convicted for espionage (for publishing state secrets). In that case, although the fact of the trial and conviction was published three months later, at the initiative of the prosecution, the matter achieved considerable adverse reaction, both

in Israel and abroad. What more appropriate definition of a police state could one suggest than a state in which an individual can disappear from public view, be tried, convicted and imprisoned for a lengthy period, without any of these events, let alone the underlying circumstances, being matters of public knowledge?

When the Nafsu affair first broke recently into public print, censorship prohibited publication of the facts. Within a few days, however, the press reported the bare details of the arrest, trial and conviction of the Circassian former lieutenant. What had happened in those few days? Suddenly, facts, whose publication for the last six years would somehow endanger the security of the nation, had become a proper subject of public knowledge.

There have been press reports of a wing in Ramle prison in which the identity of the prisoners is unknown even to their jailers. At least access to the judicial system was not denied Nafsu, as appears to have been the case with regard to the two young Germans, members of the Baader-Meinhof terrorist organization, involved in a plot to down an El Al plane in Kenya, who reportedly were held in confinement for a considerable period of time, before they were brought before a court. The toleration of secret arrest, trial and conviction is a long step down a forbidden road, for any society that values its freedom.

Nevertheless, public comment on the Nafsu case appears to have been generally limited to questions with regard to the methods of investigation of the Shin Bet and the legal issue of whether the introduction of evidence obtained by illegal means would vitiate Nafsu's conviction. The secrecy that surrounded the entire affair may well be, not how the Shin Bet acts, but how the public reacts. Even the fullest confidence in the even-handedness of Israel's judicial system is not sufficient to justify public acquiescence in a degree of secrecy reminiscent of the methods of regimes we loathe.

The writer is a political scientist.

#### JEWISH-UKRAINIAN RELATIONS

To the Editor of The Jerusalem Post  
Sir, — I would like to add some facts to Alexander Zvielli's article of April 5, "Charge is withdrawn against hero of Warsaw Ghetto."

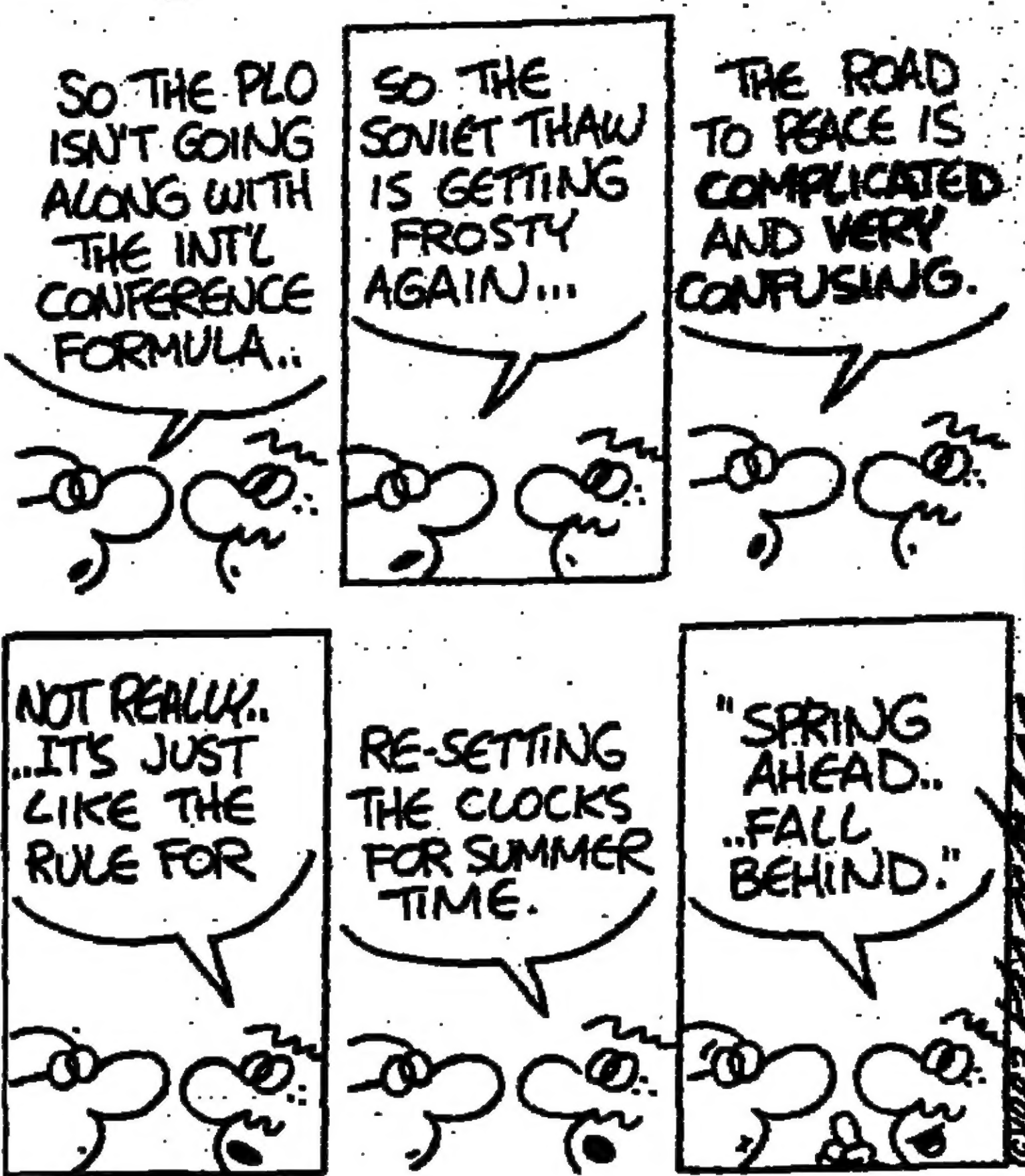
The facts are as follows: Yuriy Dyba, a Ukrainian from Vancouver, Canada, paid his own money (\$50,000 Canadian dollars) to the Chamber of the Holocaust, bought 1.5 sq. m. of land on Mt. Zion and erected a memorial dedicated to the Ukrainian and Jewish victims of Nazism and Bolshevism.

The memorial lasted only four and a half months. On September 26, it was destroyed by a group of former partisans, disabled soldiers of World War II and former prisoners of German concentration camps headed by Stefan Grajek. Yuriy Dyba did not survive this blow and died soon after the destruction of the monument.

The Association for Jewish-Ukrainian contacts in Israel considers that the Jewish people have only one option — to live in peace with all nations, including the Ukrainians. We consider hatred of Ukrainians, as well as any other form of xenophobia, a vice. Having anti-Semitism, we are fighting anti-Ukrainism here in Israel.

YAKOV SUSLENSKY,  
The Association for Jewish-Ukrainian Contacts in Israel  
Jerusalem.

## Dry Bones



#### For the Negev highlands

## More than a choice of which tree to use

James Aronson

D'VORA BEN SHAUL is to be congratulated on her article (Nature of things, "The green and the gold," March 6) which reviewed the main positions concerning the JNF's current project to convert 5,000 dunams of the Negev highlands to pine plantations. However, she left out a few of the conservation-related aspects of the controversy which might bring the matter home to your readers and help them make up their minds on the subject.

Readers should be aware that pine "forests" — a la JNF, or "green deserts," as they are sometimes called, when created in steppe and desert areas displace not only gazelles and partridges. They also frequently involve — depending on the topography — the total or near-total destruction of all vegetation existing because of the repeated ploughing, bulldozing and spraying of herbicides, required to eliminate the local "competition" and allow pine trees to establish themselves in areas with too little rainfall to support them naturally.

In the case of the Negev highlands, the existing vegetation is a rich assemblage of remarkable and beautiful annual flowers, bulbs and rhizomes, shrubs, and other life forms that, in some cases, are found nowhere else on earth. A diverse fauna, birds, mammals, rodents, insects makes its living off this flora.

The JNF position as cited in Ms. Ben Shaul's article: "pine tree forestation has proven itself over the years" and it is "the efficient way of carrying out forestation," begs the questions: *for what and for whom* is this highly contentious pine plantation project intended? Let us assume that the JNF will be successful in keeping the pine trees alive for 20 or 30 years — which is about their maximum life expectancy under such dry conditions. Even so, will the artificial and short-lived effect achieved

compensate for the risk of hampering or losing altogether what are, in some cases, unique natural communities of plants and animals?

The argument that the 5,000 dunams under debate isn't much, given that the Negev includes some 11 million dunams, is entirely specious. The Negev highlands are a much smaller area and quite distinct from the rest of the Negev. Moreover, as is the case throughout the Negev, the IDF controls most of the highlands, so the argument is really over the few remaining areas — less than 20 per cent of the whole.

WITH ALL due respect for the JNF and their many admirable achievements since the beginning of the century, I join those who say, let's think a bit more carefully about the question of "how many people are really going to benefit from more JNF plantings in the Negev?"

Even if the decision is made for more plantings, the time has come for a public review of the goals of JNF plantings in the dry zone of the country. The possibility should be studied of alternative types of plantings with, for example, fewer trees per dunam, and planting some other way than in grids of straight lines. Whoever saw a straight line of trees in nature? Alternative planting schemes might also be developed that would not require the destruction of existing vegetation and the displacement and partial destruction of local wildlife.

Another 5,000 dunams of short-lived pine trees in the Negev highlands will not bring us substantially closer to realizing Ben-Gurion's dream of "greening the desert," i.e. to make the desert look more like something it isn't — and hasn't been in the last 500,000 to 1,000,000 years. But it will be one more step in the perhaps irreversible destruction of something unique in Eretz Yisrael.

#### PEN FRIENDS

JERRY SHAW (28), of 48 Addington Square, Camberwell, London SE5 7LB, England, would like to correspond with an Israeli. He is an artist interested in sports and gardening.

#### SHIN BET

(Continued from Page One)

The Shin Bet is demanding that the state concede points connected to Nafsu's confession in order to avoid judicial scrutiny of the methods used in obtaining the confession.

Nafsu, a Circassian, was sentenced in 1981 to 18 years in prison after he was convicted of espionage, treason and the transfer of military equipment to an enemy country. The hearing on his appeal is scheduled for May 24.

Nafsu claims that he was wrongfully convicted and that the confessions presented at his trial were extracted under duress.

Military legal authorities have until now maintained that Nafsu's arguments were adequately reviewed by the court which tried him and by the Military Court of Appeals, and were rejected. Some Shin Bet officials have reportedly said that they have felt all along that the sentence imposed on Nafsu was too severe.

Meanwhile, sources close to the Shin Bet said yesterday that the chief of the service has demanded that a judicial commission of inquiry look into the service's investigative techniques and operating procedures.

The move represents an abrupt about face by the Shin Bet chief, who until now has resisted judicial interference in the security agency's workings.

The Shin Bet chief is now arguing that Nafsu's appeal will set off an avalanche of similar appeals by other security prisoners. Nafsu's appeal could also lead to increased public scrutiny and criticism of the organization, he says.

A judicial commission of inquiry, the Shin Bet chief has told govern-

ment figures, is the only feasible response.

Senior political and legal officials are not inclined to accept the Shin Bet chief's demand. But they are holding discussions on setting up some other government-appointed body to scrutinize Shin Bet techniques and issue appropriate guidelines.

Sources close to Prime Minister Shamir said yesterday that he does not object to a review of the Shin Bet procedures or to the service's unprecedented "public relations" campaign of the past few days.

But senior legal sources have expressed amazement and anger at the Shin Bet head's position, claiming that the Nafsu case was "an aberration" from the start and that the demand for a judicial commission of inquiry was intended to intimidate top political and legal officials.

Sources close to the Shin Bet have stated in the past few days that government leaders and senior legal officials have known of — and acquiesced to — the Shin Bet's interrogation methods for years.

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